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Islamic Affairs

Threats to Islamic Leaders Predated Rushdie Book

PM0704091389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Apr 89 p 1

[Muhammad al-Tunisi and Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Dr 'Abdallah Nasif Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Threats Against Al-Ahdal Preceded Clamor About Rushdie"]

[Excerpts] Brussels, Riyadh, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Saudi Arabia yesterday condemned the attacks which claimed the life of Shaykh 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Ahdal, the imam and head of the Islamic Cultural Center and director of the Islamic World League office in Brussels, last Wednesday. It described the attack as treacherous and criminal. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Islamic World League League Secretary General Dr 'Abdallah 'Umar Nasif told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that martyr 'Abdallah al-Ahdal, who was martyred in Brussels last Wednesday evening, had received threats before the Salman Rushdie book emerged.

Dr Nasif said that martyr Al-Ahdal had informed him of those threats before the clamor was stirred up about the British author's book. In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Dr Nasif made no reference to the other threats received by the director of the Islamic World League office in another European capital. Furthermore, the person concerned with those threats confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he has been receiving threats for some time, but did not say since when.

So the Islamic World League secretary general's assertions differ from media reports which have linked Al-Ahdal's martyrdom to the clamor stirred up about the Rushdie book. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Adviser Comments on Shamir Proposals

JN0704130698 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The PLO has yet to comment officially on the plan that Israeli Prime Minister Shamir presented to U.S. President George Bush yesterday. So far, we have had only a statement by one of 'Arafat's advisers, 'Imad Shakkur, in which he said that this plan is meant to throw dust into the eyes, that it is one of Shamir's maneuvers aimed at making him appear to the world as a man with a peace intitiative.

Yesterday, Clovis Maqsud, the Arab League's UN representative, rejected Shamir's plan, saying it is aimed at reviving a dead settlement plan; namely, the autonomy plan as enunciated in the Camp David agreements.

'Arafat on Dialogue With U.S., Intifadah

PM0604114489 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5-11 Apr 89 pp 12-17

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by 'Abd al-Rahman al-Rashid and Salih Qallab; date, place not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] An Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit conference was held recently in Ismailia. What was discussed at that summit?

'Arafat: The Ismailia summit was the second meeting at that level. The first meeting was held in Al-'Aqabah, Jordan, last year. The purpose of these meetings is to coordinate the positions of these parties in the interest of the Palestinian cause and in support of the Palestinian peace steps and the Palestinian-Arab initiative for a comprehensive and just peace in the region. As we hold such meetings, we look forward to the participation of the Lebanese and Syrian brothers so that the Arab side, which is supposed to attend the international conference, may achieve complete understanding and clear coordination within a single stand in the face of the Israeli enemy.

[Interviewer] Is the reference here to the five-member committee?

'Arafat: Yes, the reference is to the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese five-member committee mentioned at more several meetings. Let me point out here that, in practical terms, this coordination began in 1973 at the Alexandria meeting attended by four parties, namely Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO, after the summit meeting held in the same year in Rabat. It continued for 2 years after that. These quadripartite meetings were held before Israel's occupation of parts of southern Lebanon. This means that after the occupation, that is, after 1978, Lebanon by necessity became a party to these meetings and accordingly a party to an international conference.

The discussions at the latest meeting dealt with finding a unified Arab concept for President Husni Mubarak to submit to President George Bush on his visit to Washington. The same applies to King Husayn when he visits the United States in May. Clearly President Mubarak's visit will precede Yitzhaq Shamir's visit, while King Husayn's visit will be after Shamir's. The aim is to contain any Israeli suggestion that may run contrary to the agreed Arab position.

As is known, the Arab side insists on the settlement of the Middle East crisis through an international conference with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members and all parties to the region's conflict, including the PLO, on the basis of satisfying the Palestinian people's political national rights, including their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and an

independent state in accordance with what was agreed at the second Fes summit conference and in accordance with the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions at the recent Algiers session and my UN speech in Geneva in 1988.

[Interviewer] Does this mean that Mubarak will take a complete working paper with him?

'Arafat: No, it is not a working paper. It is a unified Arab view.

[Interviewer] Judging by the statements made, it seems that the Americans favor a transitional period before an international conference.

'Arafat: The Americans are not for a transitional period. They say that some preparation is necessary before the international conference.

[Interviewer] Does preparation mean Palestinian-Israeli contacts?

'Arafat: Preparation means international, Arab, and Israeli contacts to pave the way for an international conference so that, from the U.S. viewpoint, it can be held on a basis satisfactory to all sides.

[Interviewer] On the question of an international conference, does the Arab concept include specific dates?

'Arafat: Of course—and we want the conference to be held as soon as possible, and we believe that the next 6 months are sufficient for all the preparations and arrangements discussed by the United States and other international parties.

[Interviewer] Will the purpose of the much-discussed international conference be to bless solutions already reached or will negotiations be held at the conference? Does the PLO agree to hold direct contacts with the Israelis to pave the way, promote understanding, and formulate the agreements to be submitted to the conference?

'Arafat: The Palestinian view is the Arab view, namely, that any contacts should be held within the context of an international conference.

[Interviewer] If the United States and the Soviet Union were to show willingness to supervise contacts and negotiations between you and the Israelis before the international conference, would you agree to that?

'Arafat: We are committed to what the Arabs agreed on in Fes, Casablanca, Amman, and Algiers regarding an effective international conference under UN supervision with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members. Anything else would require a new Arab decision.

[Interviewer] If, within the context of the Fes resolutions, the Arabs were to agree to Palestinian-Israeli contacts before the international conference, would the PLO be prepared to take such a step?

'Arafat: I cannot make any assumptions or address assumptions divorced from the Arab summit resolutions.

[Interviewer] These questions are being asked urgently everywhere.

'Arafat: I have Arab summit resolutions.

[Interviewer] But the Arab summit resolution did not prohibit contacts with Israel.

'Arafat: But it was specific and clear. There is a difference between dialogue and talks with the Israeli Government and what is currently going on between us and certain Jewish parties both inside and outside Israel. These are the parties which, according to our PNC resolutions, accept Palestinian self-determination and a Palestinian state. The forum for the official matter [talks] with the Israeli Government is the international conference and the United Nations alone, in accordance with the Arab summit and PNC resolutions.

[Interviewer] Are there any contacts—even indirect contacts—with the Israelis?

'Arafat: Nothing of this kind has taken place.

[Interviewer] But you previously threatened to reveal attempts by Shamir to contact you.

'Arafat: No, I made a threat when the Israeli Government told lies. I said that it had requested of us a truce in southern Lebanon similar to the 1981 truce. I said I might disclose the details of the offer brought to us by certain circles.

[Interviewer] Could we know these circles?

'Arafat: This is a matter of international relations.

[Interviewer] That means the contact was not direct.

'Arafat: No, it was through a third party.

[Interviewer] Does the truce request still stand?

'Arafat: For our part, we have not closed the door completely. It should be clear, however, that we have certain conditions in this connection, because we do not want a repetition of the 1982 experience, when the Israeli invasion ended that truce. In 1982, the Israelis used the pretext of the attempt on the life of their ambassador in London to justify their invasion, despite the fact that the investigations proved that the main aim of the culprits was to kill the PLO representative there and that when they could not do that they turned on the

Israeli ambassador. I want to say here that the Palestinian adherence [to the truce] was meticulous in that period from 1981 until the Israeli invasion. Not a single shot was fired in southern Lebanon, and the UN forces can testify to that.

[Interviewer] Some tried to violate the agreement by mounting operations. Do the current operations being carried out from southern Lebanon fall in that context?

'Arafat: Some of these operations are ambushes prepared in advance to cause an escalation. I want to ask those concerned where they were when their camps were besieged by the Israelis and, before that, by Israeli agents. Not one of them lifted his gun to defend his women and children. The most serious aspect of this matter is that the latest operation was videotaped and shown on Israeli television, from the beginning to the end of the battle. It was a movie.

[Interviewer] Some people maintain that the reason behind these operations were certain internal conditions within some of the organizations that carried them out.

'Arafat: I do not want to become entangled in this issue.

[Interviewer] Are you absolutely opposed to these operations? Are you bound by pledges that such operations would not occur?

'Arafat: I wish to emphasize that the PLO has made no promises and concluded no agreements for a cessation of operations in southern Lebanon. We must remember that the Israeli side has not stopped its daily aggressions against villages and Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, and I must point out that self-restraint must not be one-sided, regardless of whether that side is Palestinian or Lebanese.

[Interviewer] Did you convey this position to the Americans at the latest meeting?

'Arafat: This has not happened yet. The American side has its own declared viewpoint, which is that not all military operations are terrorist operations, although it believes that calm in southern Lebanon would help create a suitable atmosphere for an international conference.

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that the Americans want more clarifications on the PLO's position on military operations and so-called terrorism?

'Arafat: What I said was clear. It is a complete answer.

[Interviewer] Does that apply to the occupied territory?

'Arafat: It applies to everything. As long as they maintain their aggression, we will maintain our positions. I want to point out here that the non-use of arms from the beginning of the intifadah [uprising] was a Palestinian decision, and that decision still stands. Observance of it has been so meticulous that only two operations have occurred since the beginning of the intifadah. In the first operation, a grenade was thrown at a military vehicle in Gaza and, in the second, an Israeli policeman was killed in Bethlehem.

[Interviewer] What about the Jericho operation?

'Arafat: Molotov cocktails, not arms, were used in the Jericho operation.

[Interviewer] Is it true that the Israelis asked the Americans to ask you to stop the use of Molotov cocktails as a way of stopping the intifadah.

'Arafat: By God, I do not know what the Israelis asked of the Americans.

[Interviewer] I mean, did the Americans convey any such request to you?

'Arafat: No, no, and I do not believe that our dialogue with the United States, which is a superpower, falls to the level of discussing Molotov cocktails. What the press says is one thing and what goes on in the talks is quite another.

[Interviewer] When the Americans call for an easing of the intifadah, does that not mean that their target is the intifadah's weapons, namely, stones and Molotov cocktails?

'Arafat: Who said that the Americans requested an easing of the intifadah?

[Interviewer] They said in their statements that the intifadah should be eased to create a suitable atmosphere for dialogue. Does that not mean that the stone and the Molotov cocktail are the target?

'Arafat: You are talking to PLO Chairman and Palestinian Revolution's Forces Commander in Chief Yasir 'Arafat. So do not talk to me about what the press says. There is a dialogue between me and the United States. They have documents, and I have documents.

[Interviewer] What I meant was, did you broach the question of scaling down the intifadah in that dialogue?

'Arafat: No, absolutely not. This matter is decided. We allow nobody to ask us to stop our resistance against the Israeli occupation. Our land is occupied, and we have a right to use every means available against that occupation.

[Interviewer] If agreement were reached on a timetable for steps toward a solution, with U.S. and Soviet guarantees, would you agree to stop the intifadah?

'Arafat: Are you bringing me an offer in this connection?

[Interviewer] We only have our questions and pens, but if...

'Arafat (interrupting): If, if, if.... I do not base my positions on "ifs." If an offer is made by any side, I would submit it to the Palestinian leadership for a decision.

[Interviewer] Do you think that Israel, under its current leadership, is prepared to sit at the negotiating table with the PLO?

'Arafat: Let me say something. Once Golda Me'ir said there was no such thing as Palestinians. Then she said that she was annoyed by the number of Palestinian babies born every day. Furthermore, did Al-Sadat and Begin not declare that there would be no more wars? But what happened? Wars have continued, ranging from the 1978 war, to the 1982 war, to the war which has been going on for 6 years in southern Lebanon. Furthermore, did Sharon and Alexander Haig (former U.S. secretary of state) not agree in 1982 to destroy the PLO and its infrastructure? They failed miserably. I want to say that not everything planned by the enemy against our Arab nation comes true.

Shultz refused to grant me an entry visa to the United States, but the whole world supported us, and the United Nations moved to Geneva to hear the spokesman for the Palestinian people. Whoever defied Shultz will defy Shamir and force him to the negotiating table. They have a dilemma, and, in the end, they will have to look for someone to get them out of it.

[Interviewer] We hear about difficult living conditions in the occupied territory. Such starvation could threaten the intifadah. Why shouldn't the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip be given all possible aid?

'Arafat: I appeal to the Arabs not to be stingy with the Palestinian revolution. Conditions are difficult in the occupied territory. Some have not honored the commitments made at the Algiers summit. I am tired of asking for these commitments to be honored. Still, I thank both those who have honored them and those who have not.

[Interviewer] There are those who say that the Palestinians are famous for wasting opportunities. Is the new opportunity in danger?

'Arafat: We have not wasted a single opportunity. They did. In 1973, we made major contributions to the war and fought on the Egyptian, Syrian, and Lebanese fronts and in our occupied territory, and we liberated some territory, but what happened then? We agreed that we would all go to Geneva as a unified Arab delegation, but Al-Sadat went to Jerusalem, then recognized as Israel's capital. Then the Palestinian state and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination were forfeited and replaced by self-administration.

[Interviewer] Did you at least have some hope at the beginning of the U.S.-Egyptian talks?

'Arafat: I had no such hopes, though I and the Arabs at the Baghdad summit conference did try to convince Al-Sadat of our views, but he refused to receive the full delegation, and the chance of a comprehensive settlement was missed.

[Interviewer] What was the second missed opportunity?

'Arafat: The second missed opportunity was in 1982. After the heroic Beirut victory we went to Fes, and the Arab peace plan was approved. The plan called for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. We formed a seven-member committee. While we were still at the beginning of the road, the traitors fabricated the secession from the PLO and the Palestinians were plunged into a new whirlpool.

[Interviewer] Is the new opportunity now in danger?

'Arafat: Of course. There are grave dangers, but the Palestinian people have learned from experience, and they are fighting their legendary battles of steadfastness, both in southern Lebanon and in the occupied territory, where the blessed intifadah, in its final wave, is one of the Arab nation's epics of resistance against the occupation and its terrorism. When the PNC met, it naturally took these matters into consideration, and it decided that Palestinian blood should not be shed in vain. We do not fight for the sake of fighting: We fight for the fulfillment of our people's national rights. What the PNC decided was what the Arabs agreed on in Fes in 1982, and in Algiers, Amman, and Casablanca. It was drafted in formulas suited to the requirements of international detente.

[Interviewer] Why have you now accepted resolutions that you rejected until recently. What is new?

'Arafat: What concerns me is the resolutions of our own institutions. These institutions have accepted the Arab summit resolutions—especially the second Fes summit resolutions, which produced the Arab peace plan, which clearly cited Resolution 181 and other international resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Interviewer] Frankly, the question of talks with the Israelis was not all that clear.

'Arafat (interrupting): No, please. We made the decision to hold a dialogue with the democratic forces in Israel in 1974. Since then, we have seen that that decision brought some successes and attracted broader Israeli forces, but some Arab papers form whatever analyses they please, and do so incorrectly and inaccurately.

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that the reason is those papers' failure to comprehend the Palestinian political movement?

'Arafat: I believe that the reason is the failure to understand that movement properly. One day we found the courage to initiate a dialogue with the Rakah Party, but some considered that a crime because it is an Israeli party. But we managed to convince them that that party supports our people's rights and that therefore a dialogue must be initiated with it.

[Interviewer] But you went beyond that to the point of showing readiness to establish a confederal state.

'Arafat: A confederation with whom?

[Interviewer] With Jordan and Israel.

'Arafat: I hope we will not fall into the trap laid by the Israeli feelers. There are Israeli feelers designed to test the Arab pulse. Unfortunately some papers and Arab officials consider those proposals, and then start basing their analysis on them. Then they react emotionally and question the PLO on that basis. It is not my fault that some do not understand that what has happened is part of the process of intellectual and political conflict between us and the enemy. And with the same narrow-mindedness, the PLO is prevented from putting out feelers to counter those of the Israelis. We are unable to counter the Israeli feelers with our own. Does this not mean denying the Arab negotiator a maneuvering factor, thus leaving such maneuvers in the enemy's hand?

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that the intifadah has placed in your hands weapons capable of putting out scores of feelers to counter those of the Israelis?

'Arafat: No, no. The intifadah has armed us with the courage to launch a Palestinian peace initiative, which is not a feeler. The peace initiative is a far-reaching strategic action to which we adhere. Those who proposed the Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation did so as an informational feeler.

[Interviewer] This means that the intifadah has freed the Palestinians' hands from old shackles.

'Arafat: This is why we have been able to present our initiative both strongly and clearly: It is genuine, not a feeler or a tactical move. It is a strategic action.

[Interviewer] Would you allow us to repeat a previous question and say: Why, over the past year, have you embarked on something that you rejected a short time ago?

'Arafat: Changes have occurred at three levels recently. We are now at a historic moment at which three factors are converging at three levels—Arab, Palestinian, and international. At the international level, we face a new age of international detente. This age started with a reduction in nuclear weapons, conventional weapons, and then tanks and troops. This has reflected on all the world's hot spots apart from the most serious, namely, the Palestinian problem.

[Interviewer] Would you call it a "new Yalta?"

'Arafat: No. It is still too early to say that. It is a beginning and will eventually lead to a "new Yalta." As for the Arab level, the first change is the Iraqi victory, which has strategic dimensions on the Arab, Israeli, and international levels and consequently on the Palestinian level. Add to this, the long-range Arab weapons and missiles with which some major Arab states have equipped themselves. This is in addition to Egypt's resumption of its position within the Arab arena, as well as the Arabs' return to Egypt.

As for the Palestinian level, two changes have taken place: first, the steadfastness epic through the Palestinian gun in South Lebanon. Second, the intifadah epic, which is the best the Palestinians and Arabs have ever produced in the face of the occupation. Even Gandhi's famous uprising did not last as long as the Palestinian intifadah. In view of this, we must consider the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and the Soviet-Israeli dialogue a prelude to an agreement on the Middle East problem. We should not wage our battle while ignoring these facts.

[Interviewer] On that basis, do you believe it is possible to initiate a settlement process through the four powers: the United States, the Soviet Union, the PLO, and Israel?

'Arafat: No, no. The Arab position to which we adhere is an effective international conference under UN auspices, in which the Security Council's permanent member states and all the parties to the conflict in the region would participate. This is why the Soviets have not made a move alone. Europe has moved with them. And so has China. The Middle East problem and the Palestinian problem constituted one of the main points in Bush's talks with the Chinese leadership.

[Interviewer] Did the two sides agree on practical steps?

'Arafat: There were detailed discussions that also embraced the international conference. Even Japan made a contribution on this during the funeral of former Emperor Hirohito.

[Interviewer] Is it true that China intends to present an initiative for resolving the Middle East crisis?

'Arafat: So far nothing of that sort has happened. But China is present through its membership in the Security Council and through its missiles in the region. And here I would like to add to all this the dynamism of the new Soviet policy in the Middle East, as Shevrednadze made a move with the withdrawal of the last soldier from Afghanistan.

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that the Soviet move was made to compensate for the losses inflicted on Moscow in Afghanistan as a result of the withdrawal?

'Arafat: Who said they lost? They have gained by ridding themselves of that dilemma, just as Palestine has done.

[Interviewer] And why we do not see the vigor exerted on all fronts maintained on the Syrian-Palestinian relations front.

'Arafat: This question should be addressed to the Arab nation at the next Arab summit.

[Interviewer] But what is the future of the attempts made at this level?

'Arafat: You know that, although the camps war continued, we made the courageous decision to bury Martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in Syria. I went to Damascus and then we met in Algiers. But matters remained as before.

[Interviewer] We have heard that there is a new Algerian mediation in this regard.

'Arafat: Yes, there is Algerian mediation.

[Interviewer] Are there any mutual conditions?

'Arafat: The mediation is still at an early stage, and we must wait and see.

[Interviewer] What truth is there in reports that groups from certain Palestinian factions have arrived in certain Arab states to assassinate Palestinian leaders?

'Arafat: Yes. This is true. But these groups do not belong to Palestinian factions. The names are in front of me now: There is only one Palestinian, two non-Palestinians.

[Interviewer] Is it possible for us to know those names?

'Arafat: No, it is not possible.

[Interviewer] Is it confined to one group?

'Arafat: No. There are other groups, some of which have arrived in Europe, and some have arrived in Athens. There are three groups.

[Interviewer] Is it true that you have provided the Americans with information about the parties that blew up the U.S. aircraft over Britain?

'Arafat: We have not reached that kind of coordination with the United States.

[Interviewer] Is the PLO ready to cooperate with the United States in what is internationally known as combating terrorism?

'Arafat. No... no. The point is that we are victims of official organized terrorism. This is why we refuse to blow up an aircraft or kill a civilian at one airport or another. We condemn such crimes and do not sympathize with those who commit them, because they are crimes against humanity. When we were in Beirut in 1967, we refused to take a single hostage. On the contrary, we facilitated the Americans' departure from Beirut via land and sea.

During the Beirut siege, some Lebanese brothers came up to me and said: The Israelis are not shelling the U.S. Embassy area and the areas where the Americans reside. Why do we not exploit this? My reply was: I cannot fight the Israelis by using a U.S. child or woman as a shield. We welcome and protect anyone who stays with us. And if anyone wants to depart, we will facilitate that for him.

[Interviewer] With regard to the hostages still in London [as published], have the Americans and the Europeans asked you to help in securing their release?

'Arafat: As you know, we have helped to secure the release of a large number of hostages in Lebanon, whether Soviet, Cypriot, or French. We are continuing our efforts in that direction.

[Interviewer] Do you really believe that the new U.S. Government is serious about the peace process?

'Arafat: Washington's announcement of the continuation of the dialogue and its instructions to its ambassador in Tunis to continue his contacts with our ambassador—since six meetings were held, culminating in serious political talks with an extensive agenda, to be followed by another meeting—all this clearly reflects the U.S. Administration's seriousness in seeking fruitful results that will impart a strong impetus to the peace process in the region.

[Interviewer] Is it possible to raise the representation level in that dialogue?

'Arafat: We have not discussed this issue between us. But we hope that that dialogue will assume various forms, rather than being limited to one form.

[Interviewer] Some say that the new U.S. Administration's clear bias toward the Israeli side conceals a different position, adopted to try to influence the Israeli Government. Do you support that view?

'Arafat: Excuse me for not answering this question. I do not want to indulge in open analyses of U.S. stances.

[Interviewer] We have heard that the Americans have informed you of the dialogue's suspension until after Mubarak's, King Husayn's, and Shamir's visits to Washington.

'Arafat: U.S. moves in the Middle East started with the Palestinians through the dialogue in question. President Mubarak's visit, King Husayn's visit, and then Shamir's visit came after this. Is it not a good thing that the U.S.

moves began with the establishment of contacts with the Palestinians? The Ismailia meeting was held to unite the Arab position. And I hope that Syria will join these meetings.

[Interviewer] Did the Ismailia meeting adopt your viewpoint, which you presented to the Americans during the recent round of talks?

'Arafat: I cannot say that the meeting adopted our viewpoint. But it did adopt the concept of our PNC decision and of my recent UN address. Both King Husayn and President Saddam Husayn confirmed it.

[Interview] There has been much talk about the formation of the provisional government. Why has its formation been delayed?

'Arafat: First of all, there is a problem, namely, that the PNC decision says that the government will comprise two leaderships, inside and outside [the occupied territories]. And if we name ministers inside, Israel will expel them. The problem is not imprisonment. The problem is expulsion and the loss of 12 leaders from inside.

[Interviewer] Can you not leave some seats vacant until new conditions emerge?

'Arafat: I am committed to the Palestinian decision. The Palestinian decision stipulates both inside and outside.

[Interviewer] Sacrifices are being made at the Palestinian grassroots level. So why should not be sacrifices at the leadership level?

'Arafat: I have told you that imprisonment is not the problem. The problem is expulsion.

[Interviewer] If the Americans offered elections in the occupied territories under the supervision of U.S. forces to be deployed there, would you accept?

'Arafat: According to the Palestinian decision to which I am committed, it is supposed to be UN forces.

[Interviewer] What if they are European forces?

'Arafat: I am the PLO leader and adhere to PNC decisions.

[Interviewer] You talked earlier about moves. That decision leaves room to maneuver.

'Arafat: This is a sensitive subject for me, and so far I have a decision that is binding on the Executive Committee. If an offer concerning U.S. forces is presented to me, I will have to convene the Central Council, at least to study the offer.

[Interviewer] And will the Central Council convene to discuss the presence of U.S. forces in the occupied territories?

'Arafat: That has not been proposed to us. I have just accepted your assumptions.

[Interviewer] With regard to the government's formation, is it not possible to create some foreign portfolios—by turning the Political Department into a foreign ministry, for instance?

'Arafat: We are faced with a problem that we are currently examining, namely, the fact that PLO representatives in the states that have recognized the Palestinian state have now become the Palestinian state's ambassadors. And in such cases, these ambassadors are supposed to present their credentials to the leaders of the host states, in the Palestinian state's name. And the head of the Palestinian state is supposed to receive the credentials of the ambassadors approved by the Palestinian state. This is the problem.

[Interviewer] Some European states' justification for their inability to receive you as a president is that you have not officially been named head of the Palestinian state.

'Arafat: All states receive me as head of state. There are EEC countries that receive me as head of state, namely, Spain, Italy, and Greece, as well as the Eastern [European] states, the nonaligned states, and the Islamic states.

[Interviewer] What prevents you being named head of the Palestinian state, leaving ministerial portfolios for later?

'Arafat: I swear by Almighty God that I do not want it. There must be democratic procedures.

[Interviewer] What about the people who carry your portraits in the occupied territories?

'Arafat: They are carrying the portraits of struggler Yasir 'Arafat, not the head of state.

[Interviewer] Do you believe that it is in the Palestinians' interests for them to carry a Palestinian passport at this stage?

'Arafat: Yes. As long as the Arab summits allow them to use such passports and provide them with the same facilities granted under other Arab passports. If this happens, it will give a great impetus to the Palestinian march and curb the blackmail exercised against the Palestinian people in connection with passports and travel documents. There is a decision by the Arab interior ministers, but I want a summit decision.

[Interviewer] Have you thought about an emblem for the Palestinian state?

'Arafat: Yes. There is more than one proposal.

[Interviewer] What is the most likely option?

'Arafat: The octagonal star, which is an Arab star, as Al-Aqsa Mosque is built in the form of an octagonal star. The star at the entrance of Hisham ibn 'Abd al-Malik in Jericho is also octagonal.

[Interviewer] You talked about groups that have been sent to carry out acts of sabotage. Are you personally a target?

'Arafat: These are old activities still being continued by the Israelis, some international intelligence services, and some Arab agents. As for the groups that have been sent, their objectives are bombings. Their aim is to obstruct the Palestinian political march.

[Interviewer] The first anniversary of Abu Jihad's martyrdom comes in a few days time. Have investigations revealed anything regarding those who committed that crime?

'Arafat: Yes. It was an Israeli operation. It was prepared and implemented carefully. They exploited Abu Jihad's weak point, namely, his renunciation of a bodyguard and the fact he did not strengthen it.

[Interviewer] How true are reports that you have arrested some suspects?

'Arafat: It is untrue. It was a carefully implemented Israeli operation in which certain international parties participated.

U.S. Urged To Accept UN Resolution 181

PM0704094389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Apr 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Washington To Be Urged To Accept Partition Resolution"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have affirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO has decided to postpone the announcement of the formation of the provisional Palestinian government and the establishment of a confederation with Jordan until an understanding regarding a settlement to the Palestinian problem is reached with the United States through the rounds of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

The sources pointed out that, during the next round of dialogue, the PLO will seek to persuade the United States to accept Resolution 181, which stipulates the establishment of two states, Palestinian and Israeli, and to try to combine the elements of both that resolution and Security Council Resolution 242; and that, during their visits to Washington, President Husni Mubarak and the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, will seek to persuade the United States to accept Resolution 181.

The sources said that the U.S. Administration is trying to link its acceptance of partition Resolution 181 to the need for the PLO to declare the Palestinian state's borders. But the PLO does not want to declare the borders now or before an understanding is reached with regard to a settlement and its participation in the international conference negotiations.

Salah Khalaf Praises Bush Statements

JN0604153189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Movement's second-in-command, has said he believes that the recent statements by U.S. President George Bush make one discern a new U.S. policy in the Middle East. He was referring to Bush's statement following his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak last Monday that peace in the Middle East should secure the Palestinians political rights, Israel's security, and must end the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

As for Shamir's plan, Abu Iyad said in an interview with the Moroccan paper AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI, that the peace plan Shamir speaks about is nothing but a dangerous Zionist plan seeking to terminate the intifadah [uprising] and weaken the struggle of the Palestinian people in and outside the occupied territories.

'Abd Rabbuh Praises Statements

LD0504212489 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has said that President Bush's recent statements on the Middle East constitute a new move contributing to speeding up the peace process. 'Abd Rabbuh also expressed the hope of seeing the U.S. Administration develop its position toward convening an international conference, saying this issue will be the main topic in the talks between President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Shamir.

He added: "We still believe that recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination constitutes the key to peace in the region. He also asked the United States to pressure Israel into stopping the repression and the terrorism in the occupied territories, adding: It is a vital and urgent issue that will demonstrate the seriousness of the U.S. position.

Al-Hasan Discusses Current Palestinian Moves

JN0604194189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 5 Apr 89 p 4

[Excerpts] Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to the president of the State of Palestine, has praised the support given by Kuwait to the Palestine question and to Palestinians, whether in the occupied territories or on its territory.

This came in a seminar held last night on the occasion of Palestinian Cultural Week, which began on 1 April to celebrate Land Day and which is held in solidarity with Palestinian writers and journalists in the occupied territory. [passage omitted]

Al-Hasan said that the intifadah [uprising] is the art of swimming against the current and that it is not important whether the intifadah began from inside or outside [the occupied territory]. What is important, however, is that it began, has continued, and will continue until self-determination, the establishment of the state, and the birth of Palestine. He demanded the minimum limit of the state—that is sovereignty over the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the capital, Jerusalem. He wondered: Why the West Bank and Gaza Strip? And answered: Because the world will not give us more than that.

Al-Hasan said: We are realistic, not dreamers. This minimum is clear and not imposed on us. He also asserted that the right thing to do is to take and not give, for we have nothing to concede. He also affirmed that the course pursued by the PLO is right. [passage omitted]

Al-Hasan wondered: How do we move to another phase? He answered: The next phase will be on the ground.

He said that Shamir will declare in the United States that he, as a sound man, still believes in expansionism. He will admit, however, that the expansionist dream is over and will propose a plan for an Israeli withdrawal to strategic points on the West Bank and Gaza Strip followed by elections inside [the occupied territories] and negotiations with the inside.

Al-Hasan said: We will respond to Shamir in advance and say: We will never accept elections. Also let Baker hear: Our plan is to convene the international conference to be sponsored by Europe, the PRC, and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council. He said: Our policy is clear, and we will not accept anything except what we have demanded.

Al-Hasan asserted that after Shamir's visit [to the United States], the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will become tense. He asserted that there is no alternative to talking with the PLO. [passage omitted]

On Dialogue With U.S.

JN0604190789 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 5 Apr 89 p 24

[By Ahmad 'Abd al-Majid]

[Excerpt] Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, yesterday praised Kuwait for its stands on Arab causes and thanked Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah for his efforts alongside the six-member Arab committee to solve Lebanon's problem, stressing that the situation there needs a man of his courage and wisdom.

In a political speech to the Kuwaiti authors union, the political adviser of the president of the State of Palestine announced that an Algerian delegation is currently in Damascus to carry out a reconciliation between Syria and the PLO and that, on behalf of the PLO, he hopes the delegation will succeed in its mission to open a new page in relations between the PLO and fraternal Syria in the service of Arab solidarity. He said he also hopes this will take place in the next few days.

Al-Hasan said that in its recent meetings in Tunis, the PLO Central Council has decided to suspend the flow of statements that harm and do not serve the Palestinian cause. He said that the Central Council adopted a policy of renewing contacts with all Arab official and popular forces and appealed to the Palestinians to renounce the concept that they alone are the owners of the cause, that they are the only ones who can settle it, and that they are always right. He stressed that the Palestinians do not intend to settle in Arab countries, because they have been struggling to return to their homeland over the past 40 years.

Hani al-Hasan said that during their dialogue with the Palestinian delegation in Tunis, the Americans submitted a request to accept the principle of land in exchange for peace, the complete implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the safeguarding of Israel's security, and the Palestinian people's political rights. He added that the Palestinian delegation asked the U.S. side to clarify its concept of these rights and to apply the two resolutions to all the territories. He said that these questions and the answers to them will be submitted in writing. [passage omitted]

Islamic Resistance Movement Issues Call No 39

JN0604185789 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued statement No 39.

The statement says: On the advent of the month of Ramadan, we extend our congratulations to the Muslim and Arab worlds and urge them to do more on behalf of the blessed intifadah [uprising].

The 1st day of Ramadan will be a day of escalation and confrontation to mark the start of the month of conquests and victories.

Saturday, 8 April, will be a day of general strike to mark the martyrdom of the mujahid 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni and his comrades in the Al-Qastal battle.

Sunday, 9 April, will be a day of general strike to mark the start of the 5th month of the 2d year of the intifadah. The day will be one of confrontations to commemorate the Dayr Yasin massacre at the hands of the terrorist Zionists.

Wednesday, 12 April, will be a day of saying God is great and reading from the Koran in the mosques as well as from rooftops to observe the anniversary of the 1982 shooting at worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Monday, 17 April, will be a day of solidarity with martyrs, in observance of the Palestinian prisoner day, when confrontations with the Zionists shall be escalated. The day will also be marked as one of solidarity with prisoners' families and seeing to their needs.

The 39th statement of Hamas called for Ramadan evenings to be occupied with symposiums, Koran readings, and group breakfast meals, and for Islamic days to be celebrated in mosques.

The statement calls attention to the fact that the 6th day of Ramadan marks the anniversary of the conquest of 'Ammuriyah in the era of Al-Mu'tasim, and that the 10th day of Ramadan marks the anniversary of the departure of the expedition of the Prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, to conquer Mecca.

The Hamas statement concluded by saying: Let us keep uttering our immortal motto: In the name of God, God is great, in the name of God. The time for Khaybar has come, and God is great and praise be to God—the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas.

Egypt

Mubarak Ends Visit to UK, Returns Home

Makes Statement in UK

NC0604135989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] London, 6 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described his talks in the United States as good, adding that there was a common understanding regarding bilateral relations. In a statement he made before his departure from London to Cairo, President Mubarak said that U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of States James Baker are aware of all the developments in the Middle East issues.

Mubarak affirmed that in America he had found understanding on the part of President Bush and other echelons. He said: "The U.S. response was very good." Mubarak hoped that God would guide Israeli Prime Minister Shamir in favor of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation so that loss of life on both the Arab and Israeli sides can be avoided.

On the unified Arab position, President Mubarak praised King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of Saudi Arabia. He described King Fahd as a long-time friend, noting that his and Egypt's relations with King Fahd and Saudi Arabia are eternal and will not change whatever the circumstances. He added: "Our ties with Saudi Arabia are ceaseless, and we have the utmost respect for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and for His Majesty King Fahd."

President Mubarak went on to say that Egypt's ties with the PLO and with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan are excellent and special. He described King Husayn as a man of stature and said he harbors the utmost respect and appreciation for him. He said King Husayn counts as a basic factor in the Palestinian issue and I have declared this many times. Without him it is difficult to move forward. He pointed out that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is a man who has exerted very great efforts and given so much, and we must not demand that he do more than that. We consult, he said, in order to increase our understanding, and perhaps we will be able to move the process of the international peace conference along, God willing.

Returns to Cairo

NC0604152389 Cairo MENA in English 1521 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, April 6 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation returned home this afternoon after a successful visit to the United States during which he had talks with President George Bush and a number of other senior U.S. officials.

Makes Statement at Airport

NC0604183889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Upon his arrival at Cairo Airport today, President Mubarak praised the development of Egyptian-U.S. relations, describing them as good. He said: Our relations with the U.S. Administration and President Bush date back to 1980.

The president added: The Americans fully understand the various aspects of the situation, and there is no problem.

President Mubarak further said that his talks with U.S. officials were held in a very friendly atmosphere. He added: We met with members of the Jewish communities, and I believe that these meetings were also very productive.

Asked whether his Washington visit and his talks with the U.S. Administration will have an effect on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's current visit to Washington, the president replied: Neither of us is supposed to influence the other, because we are all pursuing what is right.

The president remarked that it is natural for him to meet shortly with King Husayn of Jordan and Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine.

Responding to a question on Sudan's abrogation of the joint defense pact signed with Egypt, the president said: Whoever wishes to abrogate something, let him abrogate it; and whoever wishes to maintain something, let him do so. [passage omitted]

Paper Comments on U.S. Visit

NC0704083189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—The AL-AKHBAR newspaper has said that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington has cast its shadow on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's current trip to Washington and made this trip different from any previous U.S. visit by Shamir or any other Israeli official.

The paper notes that, following their talks with President Mubarak, U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker stressed two points [as received]: The need for Israeli-Palestinian talks to settle the dispute between the two sides according to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, both of which stipulate the termination of the Israeli ocupation of the Palestinian territories, or on the basis of land for peace, both of which are rejected by Shamir.

The paper points out that this time too, Shamir faces a changed climate in U.S. public opinion, which has become more understanding of and sympathetic toward the Palestinian cause in the wake of the recent change in

the PLO position. Furthermore, the paper adds, this change has left its imprint on many Jewish organizations, which began to urge the Government of Israel to respond to the olive branch offered by the Palestinians.

In conclusion, the paper says that in any case, Shamir's talks in Washington will shed light on the true nature of the American intentions toward the Middle East peace efforts as well as on U.S. credibility in this respect.

Air, Naval Maneuvers Concluded in Sinai
JN0704101098 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Apr 89 p 5

[Excerpts] The great spring maneuver carried out by the Second Field Army Corps units in Sinai was concluded yesterday. It was the first time that a maneuver included naval landings and blocking a naval attack with the participation of the Air Force elements backed by units from the shock forces, parachutists, engineers, and chemical warfare elements.

The maneuver lasted 5 days and took place in three stages. Thirty-two naval units and 55 aircraft conducted over 120 sorties, in addition to the various combat groups that participated in the maneuver. For the first time, the Sinai skies witnessed an air battle between the U.S. F-16 and the French Mirage-2000. The early warning E-2C aircraft also participated in the maneuver, carrying out control, direction, and early warning tasks to prevent both sides being taken by surprise. During the maneuver, both sides used live ammunition; one side represented the defense forces and the other side the offense forces. [passage omitted]

Yesterday was the concluding day and major part of the maneuver. Live ammunition was used by both sides and by all elements participating in the maneuver. Yesterday was dedicated to returning defense situations to their original state. Thirty-two naval units, representing the two sides, participated in loading, providing security, and helping the naval landing force, as well as confronting and destroying such a force. Fifty-five Air Force fighter aircraft participated and conducted 125 fighting sorties.

As for the amphibious force, this includes a fighter group backed by shock troops, parachutists, engineers, and chemical warfare units, in addition to troops from the guided-missile units and various caliber artillery units. Groups from the border guards, engineers, military men, and coast artillery and units from the signal and logistics corps also participated in the maneuver. Throughout all stages of the maneuver, live ammunition was used to create a real-life situation and give the fighter confidence in his capabilities and weapons.

For the first time, the E-2C early warning aircraft participated in the maneuvers. These were recently added to our Armed Forces and are the most up-to-date type. They are used to carry out control, direction, and early warning tasks to give the forces time to prepare for big battles, using surprise tactics. They are equipped with the most modern technology of the age, which Egyptian technicians have managed to accommodate in record time, to manage the battle situation of the air and naval forces participating in the maneuvers and provide information. Each side was allocated one of these aircraft, which hovered over 100 kilometers away from where the battles were taking place. [passage omitted]

Trade Agreement Between Port Said, Volgograd
NC3103162589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1303 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Port Said, 31 Mar (MENA)—A trade agreement was concluded between Port Said and Volgograd today within the framework of Egyptian-Soviet friendship. Under this agreement, Egypt will import needed Soviet products, including agricultural equipment, tractors, cement, and other products. Meanwhile, Egypt will export to the Soviet Union some products of Egyptian industrial companies.

The agreement was signed at a meeting held today between the Soviet delegation led by Volgograd mayor Yuriy Ashlanton [name as received] and presidents of productive companies in Port Said. Port Said Governor Sami Khudayr stressed, at the meeting, the need to prepare a future working program outlining the needs of both countries, the establishment of a Soviet trade center for Soviet products in Port Said, and an Egyptian trade center for Egyptian products in Volgograd.

The two sides also agreed to establish joint industrial projects in the free zone in Port Said and to exchange tourist delegations and expertise to further strengthen friendship.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR
NC2603181789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—An agreement on economic and commercial cooperation was signed today by the General Union of the Chambers of Commerce, the Egyptian Industries Association, and the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Signing the agreement for Egypt were Mahmud al-'Azabi, chairman of the General Union of the Chambers of Commerce, and Dr 'Adil Jazarin, chairman of the Industries Association. Signing for the USSR was Vladimir Kossov, director of Soviet foreign exhibits and member of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry [name and title as received], who is currently visiting Egypt.

The agreement is signed as part of the economic and trade cooperation protocol that Egypt and the USSR signed last January, which involves 650 million pounds sterling.

PRC Vice Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0404182189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1604 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Mr Liu Zheng, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Youth League and vice minister of youth and sports [title as received], and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this evening after a week-long visit to Egypt.

Ahmad al-Batriq, member of the Egyptian Youth Secretariat, stated that the Chinese guest met with Dr Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the National Democratic Party, to discuss bilateral relations, especially party ties between the two countries. Al-Batriq also said that the Chinese official invited the National Democratic Party Secretariat members to visit Beijing in September to inspect the Chinese youth's ventures and to acquaint themselves with the progress made in the field of land reclamation and tree-planting, as well as with other youth projects. The Chinese delegation also visited prominent tourist sites in Egypt during their visit.

Al-Baz Statement on Ties With Sudan, U.S.

NC3003133889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1109 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that relations between Egypt and Sudan are eternal. He noted that Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani's current visit to Cairo is especially significant at this time in light of developments in the region.

In a statement after the state reception ceremony held for Al-Mirghani at the Presidential Headquarters ended, Al-Baz said that in the next stage Sudan will face many domestic and foreign challenges. He stated that Egypt fully supports Sudan, whether in its endeavor to achieve economic reforms in favor of the Sudanese people or in its efforts to bring about a conclusive and comprehensive settlement of the problem of the south. He added that such a settlement will enhance Sudan's regional and national unity and will direct its human and natural resources toward serving development and progress.

Dr al-Baz said that Al-Mirghani's visit to Egypt follows recent developments in the area and precedes President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States. This visit is considered an important and vital event, particularly as Sudan is approaching a stage in which it will have to deal with its basic problems.

He stated that Egypt is making an intensive international effort to defend the issues of all the fraternal Arqab states, led by fraternal Sudan.

Dr al-Baz explained that the agenda of the talks between President Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush on Monday includes Egyptian-U.S. relations, specifically cooperation in the economic field and increasing U.S. assistance in Egypt's development process and in developing industrial and agricultural production.

He added that Middle East issues will feature prominently in the Mubarak-Bush talks with a view to expanding the peace framework and vitalizing the efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the area and hasten preparations for direct negotiations within the framework of the international conference.

Al-Baz said that the talks between President Mubarak and the U.S. President will also deal with certain international issues, foremost among which are Third World debts and ways of dealing with them. He noted that most of the Third World countries are suffering from these debts and they will not be able to pursue development efforts and economic reform as long as the heavy debt burden exists. Al-Baz pointed out that the developed industrialized nations should take a clear stand on this issue, noting that the United States, being the biggest industrialized country, should assume a leading role in this.

Replying to a question on various initiatives regarding the debt issue, Al-Baz said there is an initiative by current U.S. State Department Secretary James Baker, which he launched when he was treasury secretary in the Reagan administration. In addition, he added, there is an initiative by the current U.S. treasury secretary, as well as various other proposals, such as Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah's initiative in his 29 September speech at the United Nations. Furthermore, he continued, there is another initiative by French President Francois Mitterrand.

He disclosed that African leaders have put forward some proposals on this issue so as to create a favorable atmosphere for discussing all these ideas and trying to reach a practical view for resolving this long-standing issue.

Answering a question about Egypt's request to the United States concerning the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Dr al-Baz said: We request the continuation of this dialogue and call for its intensification in discussing the objective points. We think that the recent dialogue session in Tunis was an advanced one. Probing the views of each side, the discussion has begun to deal with the objective aspects and the way to a solution, as well as finding the mechanism for achieving a comprehensive and just peace.

He also noted that the Palestinian dialogue is continuing with all the international parties and with many Israelis who have adopted an open approach to dialogue with the Palestinians. He said that dialogue with the Palestinians means dialogue with the PLO because it is impossible to ignore the PLO, which is regarded by the Palestinian people and the international community as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Arab League Official Arrives in Cairo 2 Apr

NC0304084489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2236 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to Egypt expected to last several days.

During his visit, Al-Ibrahimi will attend a seminar on the relations between the Arabs and a unified Europe in 1992, to be held at Cairo University on Tuesday and Wednesday. The seminar has been organized by the London-based Center for Arabic Studies.

Information Minister Reports on Cabinet Meeting

NC0504182389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] In its meeting under the chairmanship of Dr 'Atif Sidqi today, the Council of Ministers discussed a comprehensive report on the domestic situation. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif announced this, adding that Interior Minister Zaki Badr explained in the report the measures taken to control the production and distribution of bread, as well as the measures taken by the security authorities to curb trading with foreign currency and also any manipulation of currency rates on the black market. In his report, the interior minister pointed out that the security authorities do not interfere in party meetings or affairs unless unlawful incidents take place. He also stated that the Constitution and the law must be fully honored.

The information minister added that the cabinet afterward discussed a report on the general supply situation and the preparations being made to meet the citizens' basic commodity needs during the month of Ramadan. Foremost among these needs are flour, sugar, oil, tea, and margarine. He noted that Minister of Supply Dr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab had announced there are sufficient quantities of wheat and had explained the measures implemented by the Ministry of Supply to provide flour for the citizens. The supply minister stated that it has been decided to provide 11,000 tons of flour for greater Cairo to be distributed at the rate of 5 kg per card during the first week of Ramadan, in addition to 4,000 tons in 2-kg packs, and also to provide an additional quantity of flour for Alexandria and other governorates. The supply minister also pointed to the existence of strategic stockpiles of tea, sugar, and oil.

During a debate on the general supply situation, the minister of supply referred to the created flour shortage crisis and the measures that the ministry has taken in cooperation with the Interior Ministry to curb trading with flour, to stop the flour monopolies, and to supervise the bakeries. The supply minister noted that the situation has now returned to normal. He also announced that 12,000 head of cattle will be slaughtered to provide fresh meat. This is in addition to 1,500 tons of frozen mutton selling for 3 pounds per kg. He also pointed to the existence of dates and juices from Egyptian produce companies.

The information minister said that the Cabinet also reviewed a report on the recent collision between two trains in the Governorate of Al-Buhayrah. The minister of transport and communications informed them of the urgent measures that had been taken to deal with the injured and the operation of the railroads, explaining how the Armed Forces and the ministries concerned had cooperated in this respect. The minister of health also submitted a report affirming that all of the 27 injured in the accident are in good condition. The cabinet adopted a decision to enhance the operations rooms, which deal with accidents in all governorates.

Socialist Party 'Dissidents' Dismiss Shukri

NC3103171189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1611 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—The Socialist Labor Party [SLP], led by Eng Ibrahim Shukri, issued a statement today on the meeting held by a number of dissidents, discribing the decisions adopted at the meeting as invalid.

The statement says that the aforementioned meeting was attended by a few members who are entitled to attend the SLP's General Congress, as well as former members who either had resigned or were dismissed from the party, and other persons who are not SLP members. Accordingly, the statement adds, the decisions adopted at that meeting are legally invalid because they were adopted by unauthorized persons. Furthermore, according to the internal regulations of the SLP, the General Congress shall be formed from the members of the following committees:

1. The Higher and the Executive Commmittees;

2. Staff members of the governorates offices;

3. Staff members of the centers and district offices; and,

4. Staff members of the party's Central and Technical Committees offices.

The SLP statement adds that even if those dissidents had gained the support of only one-third of the General Congress members, instead of more than one-half as stipulated in the internal regulations, they still would have applied to the party leader to hold the extraordinary emergency meeting.

The statement asserts that the dissidents' meeting cannot be considered as an extension of the previously held proper congress, because that congress had concluded its work during the fixed period.

The statement adds that the complementary congress may not change decisions adopted previously.

The dissident Socialist Front had held a meeting earlier today in which participants led by Ahmad Mujahid, who had been dismissed from the SLP, announced that the meeting was an extension of the work of the fifth SLP General Congress, which was held on 9-10 March.

The dissidents decided to discredit party leader Ibrahim Shukri and appoint Ahmad Mujahid as new leader for a period of 1 year, after which a new leader and members of the Executive Committee would be elected.

The dissidents also decided to dismiss 'Izzat 'Adil Husayn, AL-SHA'B editor in chief, from his post, and to entrust the Executive Committee with the task of taking the necessary measures to implement this decision.

The dissidents condemned some SLP leaders and members for deviating from the original program of the party, and decided to refer them to the investigation.

NPUG Statement Issued on Bread 'Crisis'

JN0504094689 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 29 Mar 89 p 7

[Statement by the General Secretariat of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party—NPUG—on the bread "crisis"; date and place not given]

[Text] The bread crisis has exploded these days. There are long lines day and night outside bakeries in all cities and provincial towns to secure bread. Citizens are very worried that their families and children may not be able to secure this basic foodstuff. This is one of the rare moments in modern history since World War II in which the Egyptian is facing a crisis in obtaining his bread. Contrary to what it says, the government is fully responsible for what is taking place, because it is part of a government plan that is being carried out secretly to completely cancel the subsidy. The government has previously increased the prices of several essential commodities and foodstuffs, especially vegetable oil, sugar, and rice. And now the time has come for bread.

The government is faking this crisis to force Egyptians to buy the loaf of bread for 5 instead of 2 piasters. In other words, we are facing a government decision to cancel the subsidy and to increase the price of bread. Orders have also been issued to produce the Tabaqi loaf for 5 piasters in all bakeries according to a timetable reached with the International Monetary Fund and which must be implemented by 1 July.

This is a grave decision that ignores the difficult conditions experienced by the broad masses of our people because of their inability to secure essential foodstuffs with the poor and low incomes they earn under a crushing inflationary situation. It also ignores public reactions to such situations. Recent examples were the uprisings of the hungry in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, and Venezuela. In fact, it ignores the lessons of the popular uprisings that took place in Egypt on 18 and 19 January 1977 when the government caused an explosion in the situation by increasing prices.

Wise governments care about the poor more than they do about the rich. But the Egyptian Government acts to the contrary. It cancels the subsidies that enable the poor to purchase basic foodstuffs such as sugar, vegetable oil, tea, and bread and maintains the subsidies for the rich in the form of tax and tariff exemptions as well as other privileges granted to Egyptian and foreign capitalists. Yet, these capitalists have not done much for production. The government is doing that because of its increased dependence on foreign aid and loans and also because it is being forced to implement policies that are dictated by international creditors.

The NPUG General Secretariat, while expressing its rejection of this premeditated policy of starving the people and viewing with great concern the disturbances that might occur if the majority of the people fail to secure their basic needs under the mounting inflation, since no power on earth can suppress a hungry people; and, out of a desire to create suitable circumstances which would enable the country to tackle its problems and to involve the people in overcoming this crisis, demands a revision of the government's current policies and the adoption of the following urgent measures:

1. Canceling any increase in the price of bread and maintaining the present price of the Baladi loaf at 2 piasters.

2. Separating the production of bread in bakeries from distribution by forcing bakeries to pass their daily production of bread to distribution points that will be supervised by local government organs in every area in the cities with the cooperation of the representatives of the political parties.

3. Increasing the amount of flour allocated to every individual in the countryside, provided distribution is by coupons and the price is the same as that offered to bakeries.

4. Continuing the subsidies for flour, bread, and other essential foodstufffs, fixing the prices of fruits and vegetables, instituting a tight price control on markets to ensure the essential needs of toiler families, and directing the main effort of the central security and police forces toward fulfilling this task rather than using them to suppress the people, the press, and liberties.

Since the policy of dependence on foreign aid is the source of our economic problems, we call for more self-dependence in the production of our basic needs, particularly:

1. Drawing up a medium-term plan for expansion in the planting of corn to cover at least two thirds of our consumption in the next 3 years.

2. Increasing the prices of basic food products to encourage peasants to expand the planting of such crops, especially corn, maize, rice, broad beans, lentils, and sugar cane.

The NPUG is completely ready to participate in every national effort that is aimed at self-dependence, ensuring food requirements, and reducing the burden of life on the toiler and low income classes.

It considers this participation a national duty. The important thing, however, is for the government to carry out its duty and to stop deceiving people by claiming the subsidy is continuing. It must stop playing with fire, thinking it can carry out its policy of canceling the subsidy secretly by suppressing the people and scaring the masses. In this respect, we demand the immediate release of all citizens who have been detained for protesting against the increase in the price of bread.

Cancellation of Bread Subsidy Opposed

JN0504090789 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 29 Mar 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Stability, Bread, and Freedom"]

[Text] The government has banned, through its twisted ways, the meeting that was scheduled to take place in Tanta tomorrow between the opposition leaders and the masses to discuss the subject they all agree on; namely, democracy. That position taken by the government shows that it is weak and insincere when it raises the slogans of democracy. Asking the government to stop rigging elections and to guarantee their honesty cannot possibly be construed as oneupmanship or a threat to stability. Asking the government to grant political liberties and to permit changes by peaceful, legitimate, and constitutional means cannot also not be construed as outbidding or a threat to stability. Violence and extremism are the legal offspring of government policy. So when we demand the legitimate exercise of democracy, we are in fact defending this stability.

By the same token, when the National Progress Unionist Grouping [NPUG] Party opposes cancellation of the bread subsidy, it is not oneupmanship or threatening stability. The opposite is true. We live among all the productive classes of our society and sense the crises and sufferings they are going through on a day-to-day basis. So we understand the danger facing the poor and middle classes from producing the so-called Tabaqi loaf, which is being sold for 5 piasters.

We are neither using oneupmanship nor speaking irresponsibly. We are not attributing today's issue to the bad economic conditions in the country or to the wide gap in standards of living in Egypt today. We are also not here to speak about ambitious plans for the near or distant future. Our main issue is the loaf of bread, which is the danger we are facing today.

The government grossly errs when it decides to solve its problems by cancelling the subsidy for bread, the main staple for the overwhelming majority of our people. By choosing this option, it not only errs against itself but also against the broad masses. It would be better to cover the subsidy by cutting government expenditure, or deducting from the indirect aid given to new companies which manufacture luxury goods, or levying higher taxes on the rich classes of our society.

By demanding the continuation of the subsidy for bread and other basic foodstuffs, we are not just expressing our party's stand, but expressing a humble demand by the broad masses. The proliferation of luxury commodities in the Egyptian market and the disappearance of the loaf of bread or its availability only at an exorbitant price beyond the means of the overwhelming majority of the people, is the contradiction and the fault which threaten stability.

Morocco

'Differences' Noted Within Opposition Party

PM0704095589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Apr 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Differences Postpone Election of Moroccan Socialist Union of Popular Forces Politburo"]

[Excerpt] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Differences at the conference of the opposition Socialist Union of Popular Forces have led to the nonannouncement of the party Politburo members' names—something which has happened for the first time in the party's history, since customarily such a procedure took only a few minutes at previous conferences.

Sources which followed the conference proceedings have attributed the nonannouncement of the Politburo members' names to differences over expanding the Politburo membership to at least 9 whereas some people proposed that the Politburo be expanded to include 26 members. Furthermore, it has been decided to abolish the administrative committee of 101 members which was the link between the Politburo and the Central Committee. It has also been decided that the Central Committee is to elect Politburo members by secret ballot—which is happening for the first time.

It is noted that Politburo member Mehdi Alaoui, former Moroccan UN representative, has not been elected to the Central Committee, which in practice means his elimination from the Politburo. In addition another Politburo member, namely, Dr Abdellatif Benjelloun, has not been nominated to Central Committee membership for health reasons.

It is also noted that, contrary to custom, party Secretary General Abderrahim Bouabid did not deliver a speech at the final meeting. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Committee Decides To Release Some Detainees

EA0604203389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Ladies and gentlemen: The following are the decisions arrived at by the emergency committee meeting this evening held at the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of Mr 'Uthman 'Umar al-Sharif, minister of justice and attorney general:

[Al-Sharif] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, and blessings and peace be on God's messenger.

The emergency committee today held its first meeting in the era of the united national unity government to look into the question of detainees held under this month's emergency regulations. The committee decided to release all the detainees held under the emergency regulations for economic offenses such as currency dealings and flour trade offenses. [passage omitted]

The committee also discussed the question of detainees held under the emergency regulations for security offenses. It decided to release civilians who participated with some of the military in previous conspiracies. Military offenders are to be detained for another month to assess their cases. [passage omitted]

The emergency committee also decided to release journalist Muhammad Madani Tawfiq after examining a petition from the journalists union and in light of the decisions adopted by newspaper chiefs and the prime minister to the effect that reports on the Armed Forces should be governed by secrecy [words indistinct]. They should only be dealt with by the press in a manner which will promote the cohesion of Army morale and the support of the Sudanese people for the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

SUNA: Financial Accord Signed With Finland

EA0604152089 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6th April—Sudan and Finland signed here last Tuesday a 40 million Finnish marks (about 10 million dollars) protocol. The money will be utilised to finance already existing projects, which includes such fields as forestry, mechanised farming, in addition to some new projects.

The two sides also signed an agreement for financing a mechanised farming project for refugees in the Eastern Region in the limit of 64 million marks (16 million dollars). The Finnish Government further agreed to extend commodity assistance to Sudan, and the revenues of these commodities will be used to finance some development projects in the country. Talks between the two sides on the aid took place in the period 30th March-4th April.

Tunisia

LE MONDE Notes 'Dissatisfaction' Over Elections

PM0604151289 Paris LE MONDE in French 4 Apr 89 p 48

[Michel Deure and Jean de la Gueriviere dispatch: "Presidential and Parliamentary Elections"]

[Text] Tunis—These elections were not the "great celebration of democracy" to which President Ben Ali referred on the last day of the campaign. First because, whatever the official figures, participation does not seem to have been massive. Second, because the opposition has reported irregularities which were the main reason for the withdrawal of all observers by the Democratic Socialist Movement [MDS], the main opposition to the government party under Mr Bourguiba.

"Everybody to the polls," the headline in LA PRESSE, a pro-government newspaper, said on Sunday 2 April, and underneath it read: "The presidential election is more like a referendum on the plan for society advocated by candidate Ben Ali." For the 2.7 million registered voters (the number of people of voting age is estimated to be 3.85 million), it was a unique opportunity to express their support for the architect of the smooth transition in 1987.

As far as we could tell during a tour of around 15 polling stations in Tunis and the surrounding district, this mobilization did not take place. The lines waiting at the two ballot boxes—one for the presidential election, the other for the parlimentary election—seemed sparse. The numerous polling stations (12,000 in the whole country) partly explains this impression. But figures gathered at local level gave pause for thought. In Tunis, in a polling station reserved for women, less than one third of the registered voters had voted 90 minutes before voting ended. The proportion was 50 percent for the men.

The chief officers at the polling stations, who were rather embarrassed by such observations, commented on the fact that Tunisians "move frequently," and the unexpected nature of these early elections. In addition, a very large number of voters, probably from all political parties, did not receive their voting papers. Many people with voting papers who might have made the effort for the presidential election alone preferred to abstain because it was combined with the parliamentary elections.

The dissatisfaction caused by the composition of the RCD lists (around 20 applicants for one candidate's position) probably led to sabotage in some constituencies. Other voters probably thought that despite being

renamed the RCD [Democratic Constitutional Rally], the government party bears too much resemblance to the previous one, but they did not identify with the rival lists of candidates.

The Color Red

The "independent" candidates' observers—some of them women—sat at a desk in each of the schools which had been turned into polling stations and meticulously took notes on the events. Following incidents and disputes, the list of "independent" candidates in Kairouan—one of the test cities for the confrontation between the government party and the Islamic movement—said they were not interested in the official results. The fact remains that, through the "independent" candidates, the Islamic movement was able to place 1,200 observers in Tunis alone—men and women sufficiently strongly motivated to show their convictions and organize to face all the administration's demands and even harassment.

However, the MDS withdrew its observers a few hours after the voting started, because of "the serious nature of the situation which has a profound effect on the election's credibility."

"We wanted to play the democratic game and be involved in free elections," MDS leader Mestiri told us. "Unfortunately, it seems that at one level of the government that was not the case and in particular it was not true of the RCD. We observed several cases in which the authorities were in league with the RCD. We regretted the fact that candidate Ben Ali chose the color red (the RCD's color—LE MONDE editor's note) for his voting slip (for the presidential election—LE MONDE editor's note). We would have preferred a neutral color."

Even before the election ended, the director of political affairs at the Interior Ministry held a press conference to protest these accusations and to condemn the pressure and violence used by the Islamic movement against the RCD's candidates. That official admitted the existence of some blunders which could be attributed to local RCD cadres, but he said that the MDS' attitude "stems from insincerity and undermines the democratic process."

With this war of communiques, which is likely to continue and worsen, we are suddenly a long way from the climate of reconciliation among Tunisians which prevailed at the signing of the national pact by all the parties on 7 November 1988.

Saudi Arabia

SPA: Source Denies Chemical Weapons Charge

LD0604185189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Apr (SPA)—A responsible source has denied a story published in the 5 April CHICAGO TRIBUNE claiming that the Kingdom is among the groups with access to the necessary resources for the manufacture of chemical weapons.

In a statement made to SPA today, Thursday, the responsible source said that what the paper alleged is not true. He added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had previously clearly declared its position on this issue. It today reaffirms this position, he said, emphaizing that the Kingdom opposes the use of chemical weapons.

The source concluded his statement by saying that by signing the treaty for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and lodging its documents of ratification with the international quarters concerned, the Kingdom has become committed to this treaty before the international community.

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Holds Jeddah News Conference

LD0704102389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 6 Apr (SPA)—His Excellency Ahmad al-Mirghani, head of the Sudanese State Council, has expressed his gratitude, thanks, and appreciation to the custodian of the two holy mosques, his royal highness the crown prince, and his royal highness the second deputy prime minister for their good hospitality and warm welcome.

At the beginning of the news conference, he held at his residence in Jeddah, he hailed the Kingdom's support and assistance under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, adding: Such unlimited support and assistance are being extended in all spheres and under all circumstances. This was made very clear during the floods and inundations by the airlift established by the Kingdom, which was the first to extend relief. This matter has a great effect on the Sudanese people."

Mr al-Mirghani added: "The Kingdom has proved that the Red Sea is a link between the two fraternal people. Here, I would like to put on record my great admiration for the Kingdom's progress in all fields under the leadership of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz." He described the Kingdom's achievements as superior to those achieved by the developed world and added: "The Kingdom has been managing and facilitating the performance of the hajj rites for God's guests from all over the world."

Mr al-Mirghani pointed out that his talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques dealt with bilateral relations and the means for bolstering them, as well as with finding more channels for their contacts, in addition to common issues of the Arab and Islamic nations. He described the atmosphere of the talks as friendly and brotherly. He also pointed out he had acquainted the beloved king on the political situation in Sudan, as well as on the aims and the priorities of the new government and its concentration on the interim action plan and adoption of the peace plan."

Mr al-Mirghani added that he and his accompanying delegation had held meetings with His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; and Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning. He insisted: "These meetings resulted in mutual understanding and coordination on a number of issues of mutual interest." [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani denied that Sudanese-Egyptian relations are flagging, pointing out he himself visited Egypt recently, met with his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, and discussed with him issues of mutual interest to both fraternal countries. He added: "Relations between the Sudanese and Egyptian Governments are very good."

Mr al-Mirghani affirmed that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] was a leading step in cooperation and coordination among Gulf countries, pointing out that Sudan is pleased about the three regional Arab groupings, adding: "They all fall within the framework of the Arab League and the interests of the Arab nation, praising in this respect the GCC and the Arab Maghreb Union."

He insisted that Sudan now is concerned with resolving its internal problems and reorganizing its house in an endeavor to attain political stability, which is a great pillar for achieving social and economic stability.

Afterward, Mr Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, read out a statement in which he pointed out that the new government is a broadly-based one that has committed itself to achieving the interim action plan, foremost of which is the adoption by the Sudanese government of the peace agreement and its acceptance of the 16 November Addis Ababa initiative.

He added: "The government's action plan stipulates the creation of a ministerial peace committee under the leadership of the foreign minister to follow up all the necessary steps to implement such an agreement and to prepare for a constitutional conference and a cease-fire."

In reply to a question, the Sudanese foreign minister said: "John Garang's movement needs peace and stability; furthermore, the leadership of this movement is serious about achieving peace. However, we do not expect any change in the movement's stance (?towards) the clauses of the peace initiatives." He added that the

peace initiative is not final; it is merely a procedural agreement that may enable us to meet and put forward our orientations and desires through democratic dialogue at the pan-Sudanese constitutional conference which will take place following the meeting of the higher peace committee with John Garang's movement. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Interviewed on 'Rumors,' Arab Affairs

JN0604152589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpts] In an interview published in the latest issue of the magazine ADWA' AL-YAMAN, brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, stressed the political, economic, and social developments that have taken place, especially in the past 10 years. He said it is not easy to sum up what has been achieved in all fields during the years of the immortal revolution. He said these achievements are visible and can be seen by everyone, especially if they saw our country's suffering and backwardness in the defunct era and how it now managed to achieve comprehensive development progress. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question posed by the magazine on rumors by hostile forces concerning the security and stability of our country and revolution, the president explained: Rumors do not concern us at all. As long as our development march, which is based on the September revolution and charter, is accelerating and scoring comprehensive achievements on all levels seen and experienced by every citizen, there will be no problem because sincere and honest work can automatically defuse any rumors.

On the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], the brother president said the ACC is first of all an economic grouping, which we consider an advanced, practical step toward consolidating joint Arab action and achieving economic integration and coordination among the four founder states. He said the ACC is solid ground for achieving a comprehensive Arab grouping or an Arab common market serving our Arab nation's objectives and aspirations. He said: The ACC foundation agreement that we signed in Baghdad with my brothers the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq specifies the ACC's objectives, nature, and orientations.

He said: Generally speaking, the ACC is an important historic achievement, which brings welfare and progress to the four founding states as well as the peoples of our Arab nation.

The brother president affirmed that Yemeni reunity is inevitable. He said there are continuous meetings and constant coordination in various fields between the two parts of Yemen. He said: For our part, we believe the measures that have been taken in this regard, especially after the completion of the constitution of the unity state, are sufficient to bring closer the dawn of that day awaited with hope by every citizen in the two parts.

On the Palestine question, the brother president said the Palestinian people under the PLO have proved to the entire world the sincerity of their struggle to establish justice and peace in the region. He said the recent Palestinian steps crowned with the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state in Arab Palestine is a true sign of the certain desire to achieve a just peace in the region. He said: We believe the current international moves will inevitably lead to the convocation of an international peace conference as long as intentions are sincere concerning the establishment of just and durable peace in the region.

Responding to a final question by the magazine, the brother president affirmed: We always seek to contribute toward clearing the Arab atmosphere to close ranks and obstruct enemy attempts to exploit some of these differences for widening the gap and leading the Arab nation into mazes to distract their attention from their basic issues. He said: Our bilateral or multilateral meetings with our brother leaders of the Arab nation always focus on Arab solidarity and means to clear the atmosphere of any problems arising from past circumstances.

The brother president added: We always support any Arab meeting within the framework of the Arab League because such meetings have great importance in activating joint Arab action and making it more aware of the dangers and challenges surrounding the Arab nation from every side.

IAEA Official Confirms Peaceful Nuclear Usage

JN0604141989 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Vienna, Apr. 6, INA—General director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has confirmed that "there is nothing which can refer to nuclear material which might be transferred to Iraq for non-peaceful uses".

"Iraqi nuclear installations are under IAEA observation and that IAEA experts are inspecting them continuously and there is nothing which can refer during the processes of IAEA monitoring which can show that nuclear material was transferred to be used for non-peaceful purposes", the IAEA official told INA correspondent here today.

Answering a question on "Israel's" threats to launch aggression against Iraqi scientific and industrial installations, the IAEA official stated that most of the countries in the region, including Iraq, are signatories of a treaty for nuclear weapons non-proliferation in addition to Saudi Arabia which had joined the treaty, except "Israel" which had not signed the treaty.

The IAEA director general added that "the latest general conference had discussed the question of observation in the Middle East and the General Secretariat was examining ways to implement observing measures (guarantees) in this area", pointing to the possibility to free the area from nuclear weapons.

Iraq yesterday strongly warned that it would fiercely reply to any "Israeli" aggression on Iraqi industrial and scientific installations, in a statement on reports and fabricated statements recently aired by Zionist circles on claims that Iraq had produced nuclear [war]heads.

New National Assembly Called Into Session 12 Apr

JN0604105889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has called the National Assembly into session next Wednesday [12 April]. His excellency issued a decree to this effect. The National Assembly elections, won by 250 candidates constituting the entire membership of the Assembly, were held Saturday, 1 April.

AL-THAWRAH Lists Assembly Election Winners

JN0604103589 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Apr 89 p 5

[Names of winners in the third National Assembly elections held on 1 April 1989]

[Text] First, the constituencies of the City of Baghdad:
First Constituency: 1. Sa'di Mahdi Salih. 2. Fa'iq Makki Ahmad al-Takriti. 3. Ghanim Dawud Salman. 4. Taha Ahmad al-Dawud.
Second Constituency: 1. Dr Ahmad Nuri Muhammad al-Nu'aymi. 2. 'Adil 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Karim. 3. Dr Rashid 'Abd al-Rahman Salih al-'Ubaydi. 4. 'Ali 'Akbayah Huwaysh al-Ka'bi. 5. Ghasaq Fadil 'Abbas Al-Fadli.
Third Constituency: 1. 'Abd al-Karim Jihad 'Abbas al-'Azawi. 2. Naji Sa'id Salman al-Sa'idi. 3. Ghalib Muhammad Muhsin Fahd al-Rabi'i. 4. Majid Humayd Khunaysir al-Kanani.
Fourth Constituency: 1. Siham 'Abd al-Ghafur 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Hamid al-Nu'aymi. 2. 'Abd al-Wahab 'Abdallah Yusuf al-Hiti. 3. Jasim 'Ali Karim al-Mahmadawi. 4. Majidah Hasan Jabbar al-Lami.
Fifth Constituency: 1. 'Aqil Jabr Hamad Abu Raghif. 2. Sa'id Husayn Najm al-Hashimi. 3. 'Atiyyah Dakhil Hamadi Suwayf al-'Abbadi. 4. Nahidah Yusuf Muhammad al-Juburi.
Sixth Constituency: 1. Dr Mundhir Wardi 'Abd al-Hamid al-Alusi. 2. Dr Khattab 'Abd al-Karim 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Qaysi. 3. Dr Walid Ghanim Bahnam al-Tawil. 4. Khalid 'Abd al-Halim Jasim Muhammad Al Taha.
Seventh Constituency: 1. Ahmad Dirar Isma'il Hasan. 2. Dr 'Imad 'Abd al-Salam Ra'uf 'Abdallah. 3. Ghanim 'Aziz Khuduri. 4. Husam Hamid Tahir Yasin Abu Raghif. 5. Jabir 'Abd al-Rida Husayn al-Bayyati.
Eighth Constituency: 1. Dr Anwar Na'im Qasirah. 2. Hatim 'Abd al-Rashid Muhammad. 3. Dr Sultan 'Abd al-Qadir Mahmud al-Shawi. 4. 'Abd al-Qadir 'Abd al-Razzak 'Abd al-Wahab al-Jinabi. 5. Ibrahim 'Abbas 'Abdallah al-Falahi.
Ninth Constituency: 1. Dr Sawsan Shakir Majid al-Jalabi. 2. Sayf al-Din Mahmud Ahmad al-Shahdani. 3. Dr Riyad Rashid Naji al-Haydari. 4. Khalid Muhammad Sakr Makasis. 5. Hisham Hasan Tawfiq al-Yawar.
10th Constituency: 1. Dr Talal 'Ashur Wadi Kan'an. 2. Dr 'Abd al-Khaliq Marhun 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jalabi. 3. Dr 'Ali Turki Muslih al-Jinabi. 4. Dr Hasan 'Abd al-karim Husayn Muhammad al-Shar'. 5. Hashim Muhsin Isma'il al-Sa'idi.
11th Constituency: 1. Dr Sa'dun Khalifah Mahdi al-Takriti. 2. Dr Jabir Ibrahim Muhammad al-Rawi. 3. Dr 'Adil Ibrahim Shihadah al-Hadithi. 4. Umamah Fadil 'Abd al-Latif al-Kabr al-Samirra'i. 5. Dr Fawzi Ibrahim Ahmad al-Mashhadani.
12th Constituency: 1. Dr 'Isam Rashid Huwaysh. 2. Dr 'Abd al-Jabbar Hasan Sakhl al-'Ubaydi. 3. Nuriyah 'Abd al-Rahim Ibrahim Muhammad al-Khuza'i. 4. Hatim 'Ali Hamid Hayyawi al-'Akidi. 5. Fada'il Muhammad Hashim al-Zubaydi.
13th Constituency: 1. Dr Muhammad Muzaffar al-Adhami. 2. Shakir Ahmad Husayn al-'Aythawi. 3. Raja' Murad al-Shawi. 4. Naji Dhiab al-Shaykh Zuwayyin al-'Aithawi.

Second, the constituencies of the Iraqi governorates:

Ninawa Governorate:
First Constituency: 1. Dr 'Abd al-Hamid 'Aziz Muhammad Salih al-Da'i'. 2. Salim Isma'il 'Abdallah al-Husayni. 3. Khayri al-Haj Ahmad Muhammad. 4. Ahmad Nawzat 'Abd al-Sattar Hasan Kashmulah. 5. Mahmud Jasim Husayn al-Mashhadani.

Second Constituency: 1. Qusayy Yahya Qasim. 2. 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Aziz Wahb al-Shamma'. 3. Nizar Muhammad Sulayman al-Mukhtar. 4. Dr Ra'id Hashim Fa'iq al-Dubuni. 5. Kamil 'Abd al-Rahman Isma'il al-Nu'aymi.
Third Constituency: 1. Jawhar Muhyi al-Din Jankir al-Harki. 2. Qadri Ahmad Muhammad al-Zibari. 3. 'Ali Husayn 'Uklah al-Juburi. 4. Sa'id Muhyi al-Din Ahmad Bardah Rash. 5. Subhi 'Ali Mustafa al-Mallah.
Fourth Constituency: 1. Husayn 'Ali Lujji al-Juburi. 2. 'Abd al-Rahman Khalaf Husayn al-Juburi. 3. Lafi Sultan Shihab Ahmad. 4. Salih Ahmad al-Mulla Mansur.
Fifth Constituency: 1. Muhammad Tahir 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Qadir al-Tahhan. 2. Wahb Muhammad Yunus 'Abdallah. 3. Salim Mahmud al-Haj 'Ali. 4. Hasan Habash Quru. 5. Mani' Saffuk 'Ujayl al-Jawar.

Babil Governorate:
First Constituency: 1. Ni'mah 'Anun Hassun. 2. Hashim Muhammad Hashim al-Yasiri. 3. 'Amir Husayn 'Abd 'Ali al-Shammari. 4. Hasan 'Ulwan 'Abd al-Sultani.
Second Constituency: 1. 'Amir Muhammad Naji. 2. Faqat Nuri Tawfiq al-Bayati. 3. Ra'd 'Allawi Husayn al-Dulaymi. 4. Hatim Karim Shihab. 5. Hamzah 'Abd Huraysh al-'Amiri.
Third Constituency: 1. 'Abd al-Wahid Khudayr Suwaydan al-Janabi. 2. 'Ubayd Dakhil 'Abbas al-Ta'i. 3. 'Adnan Rashid Hamad al-Ma'muri. 4. Hamid Hadi Tarad al-Mas'udi. 5. Majid Thamir 'Umran al-Zanbur al-'Ujayli.
Fourth Constituency: 1. 'Abd al-Muhsin Ahmad Jasim al-Dulaymi. 2. Ni'mah Mustaf Ghathwan al-Ghurayri.

Diyala Governorate:
First Constituency: 1. Raghib Humud Sallum al-Zuhayri. 2. Qays 'Abd al-Kafi Husayn. 3. Ghazi 'Abd al-Majid Qasim. 4. Talib Hamid Muhammad al-Nu'aymi.
Second Constituency: 1. 'Ali Husayn Hamad al-Darwish al-Juburi. 2. Dawud Hamid 'Ali al-Jurani. 3. Sakban Muhammad Mughir al-Tamimi.
Third Constituency: 1. Khudayr Zahir Salih al-Juburi. 2. Sami 'Abd al-Hadi Mahmud al-Tamimi. 3. Najat Shukr Mahmud al-Dulaymi. 4. Rif'at Ibrahim 'Abd al-Baqi.
Fourth Constituency: 1. Wisam Habib al-Khayzaran. 2. Hamid Rashid 'Uwayd al-'Ubaydi. 3. Iman Mahmud Nawruz. 4. Habib Shabib Ibrahim al-Awsi.

Dhiqar Governorate:
First Constituency: 1. Balqis Ni'mah al-'Aziz. 2. Muhammad Hajim Thamir al-Husaynawi. 3. Ibrahim Hassun Nasir al-Husaynawi. 4. Habib Muhan Jubayr al-Ghazzi.
Second Constituency: 1. 'Abd al-Baqi 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-Sa'dun. 2. Hamid 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Khalid. 3. 'Abd al-'Ali Shulaybah 'Abdallah Al Washshah. 4. Jalal Sultan Kazar Al Kazar.
Third Constituency: 1. 'Abd al-Amir Kazim Muhaysin al-'Awwadi. 2. Rahim Mubarak 'Ali al-Khafaji. 3. Baqir Jawad Jalikh Jabr al-'Abbudi.
Fourth Constituency: 1. 'Umran Musa Mujalli al-Rikabi. 2. Ihsan Sattar Khudayr al-Asadi. 3. 'Abd al-Sahib Sa'dun Yasin al-Mishlib.

Al-Basrah Governorate:
First Constituency: 1. Faruq 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Rahman al-Ma'yuf. 2. Badi'ah 'Abd al-Hamid Musa al-Bushihab. 3. Humud Wibdan Faysal Barak al-Sa'dun. 4. 'Amirah Muhammad Naji Ya'qub al-Manasir.
Second Constituency: 1. Dr Safa' Salih al-'Umar Al Ishaq. 2. Ilham Husayn Yusuf al-Salim. 3. Nahidah Idris Ismail al-'Aysi. 4. Sabihah Na'im Daygham al-Husayniyah. 5. Dr Mundhir 'Abd al-Karim 'Isa al-Bakr.
Third Constituency: 1. Tawfiq Jum'ah 'Abbadi al-Hajjaj. 2. Juray Hamid Humud al-Imarah. 3. Kamil Hannun Abu al-Hayl. 4. Laftah Hamid Taqiy al-Qaswan.

Al-Anbar Governorate:
First Constituency: 1. Dhiyab Yunus al-'Irsan. 2. Khamis 'Abdallah 'Abbas al-Jumayli. 3. Khalaf Jiyad Khalaf.
Second Constituency: Dr Ibrahim Hamid Fathi al-'Ani. 2. Hikmat Muhammad Samir al-Shallal. 3. Talib Faraj 'Asi.
Third Constituency: 1. 'Abd al-Karim Mukhlif 'Abd al-Muhsin. 2. Anwar 'Abd al-Razzaq Muhammad al-Kharbit. 3. Fawwaz Dahham Hilayl. 4. Hamid Rashid Mihnah al-'Alwani.
Fourth Constituency: 1. 'Inad Mi'jil Najras al-Ku'ud. 2. Sultan 'Iftan al-Sharaji. 3. 'Uklah 'Abd Saqr.

Irbil Governorate:
First Constituency: 1. 'Ujayl Jalal Isma'il. 2. Khalil Muhammad Hasan. 3. Mansur Mustafa Shaykh Kakah 'Abd al-Karim al-Barzanji. 4. 'Awni Haji Qadir Mustafa. 5. Burhan Muhammad Rashid Amin.
Second Constituency: 1. Wadi Shihab Ahmad al-Luhaybi. 2. Isma'il Salih Ibrahim. 3. Khalid Mawlud Taha Nankali.
Third Constituency: 1. Karim Khan Mahmud Khalifah. 2. Akram 'Abd Jasim. 3. 'Abdallah Qadir 'Aziz al-Sawraji.

Salah al-Din Governorate:
First Constituency: 1. Sami 'Abdallah Sulayman al-Bayati. 2. Anwar Mawlud Dhiban al-Tikriti. 3. Salih Muhammad Mahmud Abu Khamrah. 4. Hamid Rajab Ghayth al-Qaysi. 5. 'Abdallah Rawdan Dakhil al-Faraj al-Juburi.
Second Constituency: 1. Muhammad 'Abd Khalaf al-'Abbasi. 2. Sa'id Jasim Hamid al-Mashhadani. 3. Ghazzah Ahmad Hasan al-Samarra'i. 4. Mustafa Jasim 'Abbas al-Ahbabi. 5. Qahtan Shihab Ahmad al-Jawari.

Al-Ta'mim Governorate:
First Constituency: 1. Akram Shuja' Hamdan. 2. Ahmad Mulla Karim. 3. Khalidah Burhan 'Abd al-Qadir. 3. 'Adnan Dawwah Hajji al-Hadithi. 4. Lutfi Muzhir 'Abd al-Qadir al-Tikriti.
Second Constituency: 1. Hasib 'Arif Nayif al-'Ubaydi. 2. Husayn Muhammad Sulayman al-Juburi. 3. Mijbil 'Ali Husayn al-Shaykh 'Isa. 4. Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd al-Rahman al-Tayyar.

Al-Najaf Governorate:
First Constituency:

1. 'Adnan Hasan Hadi Zuwayn. 2. Yunis Hadi Wannas al-Shammari. 3. Dr Muhammad Kazim Jasim Muhammad al-Bakka'. 4. Fatimah Sa'id 'Abbas Dush. 5. 'Ali Ni'mah Hadi al-Hilu.
Second Constituency:

1. Rahim Hadi 'Abdallah al-Shamkhi. 2. Bashir Hammud Kazim al-Ghazali. 3. Qa'id Radi Thamir al-Hatimi. 4. Sadiq Ja'far 'Awdah al-Fatlawi.

Al-Qadisiyah Governorate:
First Constituency:

1. Khalid Muhammad al-Badr 2. Khalid Kamil Mawjid al-Sha'lan. 3. Salih 'Abd Matar al-Shammari. 4. Jawad Kazim Jasim al-Sharut. 5. Jalil Kazim Mankhi al-Zubaydi.
Second Constituency:

1. Sami Raji Kuhayymis al-Juburi. 2. Husayn 'Ali al-Sha'lan. 3. Sabri Kazim Zughayir al-'Alili. 4. Dr Ahmad Humayd Muhammad al-Mayyali.

Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate:
First Constituency:

1. Fa'izah Muhammad Ahmad Bazyani. 2. 'Adil Ra'uf Sadiq. 3. Ra'uf Mahmud Sa'id Karizhi. 4. Iskandar Hamzah Babir Agha al-Bashdari. 5. Hazim 'Abdallah 'Aziz.
Second Constituency:

2. Rif'ah Muhammad 'Ali Bashir. 2. Aminah 'Abdallah Muhammad. 3. Shawkah 'Ali Muhammad Rashid al-Jaf. 4. 'Umar Kukha Qadir Hammah Salih Awah Kah Lah. 5. 'Uthman Ahmad Rashid Agha Kalali.
Third Constituency:

1. Ahmad 'Aziz Muhammad. 2. Babakir Muhammad 'Abbas Agha Kalalah. 3. Halkurd 'Abd al-Karim 'Abd al-Qadir Kasnizani. 4. 'Umar Khadr Rustum.

Wasit Governorate:
First Constituency:

1. Yasir Hasan Sultan al-Zarkani. 2. Muhammad 'Aylan Husayn al-Ghuraybawi. 3. Labibah Nasir 'Abd al-Husayn al-Shammari. 4. 'Arif Hamad Fahd al-Sa'dun.
Second Constituency:

1. 'Ali Nafi' Shakkuri. 2. Kazim Mirzah Hamzah al-Nu'imi. 3. Sana' 'Abd al-Razzaq Mahdi al-Saffar. 4. Tariq 'Abd al-Wahid Kkashshan al-Ghimawi.

Maysan Governorate:
First Constituency:

1. Muhammad 'Ashur Kazim al-Bajati. 2. Muhammad Yasin Namuq al-Hashimi. 3. Sami Nasir Hasan al-Sa'idi. 4. Khaz'al Ghulaym Khalil al-Lami.
Second Constituency:

1. Matar Surut Muhsin al-Isma'ili. 2. Muhammad Khalaf Hasan al-Hurayshawi. 3. Khalid Jawad Mu'in al-Sa'idi. 4. Sa'dun Qasim Humud al-Mafraji.

Karbala' Governorate:
First Constituency:

1. Jawad Hamzah Abu al-Hubb. 2. Najah Nuri al-Sarmad. 3. 'Adnan 'Abd al-Husayn Muhammad al-Dari. 4. Amirah Zibalah Faris al-Kar'awi.
Second Constituency:

1. Muddar Jawad Hadi al-Qazwini. 2. 'Abd Zid 'Ali Muhammad al-Hasnawi. 3. Husayn 'Abd al-Amir Zibalah al-Sa'udi.

Al-Muthanna Governorate:
1. Ashwaq Ibrahim Rashid al-Dawudi. 2. Hamid 'Aryan Baris al-Zalimi. 3. Jabbar 'Abbas Dawud al-A'ajimi. 4. Jasim 'Abbas Mahmud Taj al-Din. 5. Kazim Fayyad Shujay al-Rab'i.

Dahuk Governorate:
1. Ibrahim 'Ali al-Haj Mallu al-Mazzuri. 2. Sa'id Diwali Sa'id al-Duski. 3. Lazkin Fariq Tahir al-Duski. 4. Habi Rashid Rushdi al-Rikani. 5. Sirdar 'Abd al-Majid Rashid al-Barwari.

Shamir: 'Full Understanding' Reached in U.S.

TA0704060789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shim'on Schiffer and 'Oded Ben-'Ami in Washington; on 6 April—recorded]

[Text] [Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, at the completion of your talks in Washington, with what sort of feeling are you returning home? Can we report that the prime minister of Israel has reached an agreement with the U.S. Administration on the coming moves in a Middle East settlement?

[Shamir] I have not yet completed all my talks, but I am close to ending them, and one could say that in general there was full understanding about the path we should take to advance toward a solution to the conflict between ourselves and the Palestinian Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Schiffer] Is there nothing in the President's announcement that you see as a source for concern?

[Shamir] There is nothing special in the remarks he read out. The remarks possibly contain some things that we do not agree with completely, but I do not see anything special in them.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, the President's statement said that the United States opposes a Palestinian state, and I understand you are pleased about that, but it also said the United States also opposes the continued Israeli sovereignty over and occupation of Judaea and Samaria. What is your response?

[Shamir] That is the President's position, but on the other hand, we agreed that the permanent solution will be achieved through negotiations between the sides without preconditions and that the solution must be acceptable to both sides.

[Schiffer] How did you find this administration? How would you compare the Bush administration with the Reagan administration?

[Shamir] I do not wish to give out points, but I can say that in general I am satisfied with the understanding and cooperation I found.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, you said that there is agreement in Israel—which I understand you mean to be between the Likud and Alignment—on the proposals you presented to the U.S. Administration. Does this mean that if anybody had any ideas about changing the composition of this government on your return from Washington, he can forget about it?

[Shamir] I do not give any thought to the political implications; I believe that there was no such chance even before the visit.

[Ben-'Ami] To conclude, Mr Shamir, do you foresee any timetable for the political developments which might take place between Israel and the United States in the attempt to find a way out for elections in the territories?

[Shamir] It is still too early to work out a timetable. I suppose that in a week or 2 we will be able to draw up a plan that would include a timetable for the near future.

[Schiffer] Thank you very much, Mr Shamir.

Netanyahu on U.S. Talks

TA0704074889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Washington by Menahem Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Friedman] The core of the Shamir plan is apparently the municipal elections in the territories. Did the Israeli-U.S. agreement include a timetable for the implementation of these elections?

[Netanyahu] The details were not worked out. There are obviously still many issues to be worked out. These must first be discussed in Israel, in the proper forums. The general framework for an interim settlement is elections, which we hope will be accompanied by quiet and an end to violence. These things are the determining framework for the continuation of the process.

[Friedman] Shamir said in his announcement that there would be democratic elections aimed at setting up a delegation to negotiate an interim settlement and on the self-governing authority. Which Palestinian residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are eligible to participate in these elections?

[Netanyahu] No limitations were set. Limitations concerning the residents of the territories were not the issue; however, there is the issue of creating conditions conducive to holding free elections. It is obvious that if there is terrorism, violence, and fear, elections—that is, the process of choosing various candidates of opposing views—cannot take place. First the conditions must be conducive to permitting such a step. We hope we will be able to create this situation as quickly as possible.

[Friedman] Is the United States about to appeal to the PLO and ask for its agreement to holding these elections and to creating the atmosphere of quiet and nonviolence

in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip? Otherwise the inhabitants of the territories will not be prepared to present their candidacy for these elections and participate in them.

[Netanyahu] That issue was not raised at all. We held no discussion whatsoever on PLO agreement or lack of agreement. We made clear what Israel is prepared to do and on which plan it is prepared to advance the process. The Americans considered what we brought up and not the opposition or agreement of other elements.

[Friedman] What if in 6 months it appears that there has not been any movement, that there are no elections? The Americans will come to us then and say: Now try an international conference, perhaps direct talks, as Baker said prior to this visit.

[Netanyahu] I would not suggest creating hypothetical situations. At present there is a concrete, positive proposal which Israel put forward. The United States certainly supports this move. The details, of course, still have to be worked out, but there is no reason at present to consider what will happen if. I suggest concentrating right now on the present and the existing possibilities.

[Friedman] In his summing up remarks, George Bush reiterated the statement that is very embarrassing for Israel. He said: We do not support Israeli sovereignty over or permanent Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. What did he mean? Did he mean that Israel would evacuate all these territories within the framework of the permanent settlement?

[Netanyahu] We know that there are points of disagreement between ourselves and the United States on the final status. The prime minister said that had we now discussed the issue of the final status, the Arab side would have raised its demands for sovereignty and we would have raised ours. As this would not have been beneficial toward achieving a settlement or progress in the political process, Israel made a different proposal. This is why the interim settlement proposal, which at present does not raise the issue of the final status with the opposing demands by the sides, is the only practical and useful move. It is important to point out that the United States in practice accepts this approach in the wake of the prime minister's visit.

[Friedman] But it is absolutely clear to us that the U.S. position is that Resolution 242 means Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Netanyahu] Once again, the question is not the differences of opinion or even agreement on a permanent settlement. The question at present is: How can we advance in practice? In this regard, the prime minister presented his plan and made sure to secure the state's essential interests. I think he did this with great success.

[Friedman] Did the prime minister hear a demand not to set up additional settlements in the territories, at least until the elections are held?

[Netanyahu] This issue was not raised in the talks, as far as I know.

[Friedman] I would like to ask you how long the Americans are prepared to wait? How long have they given us to try to implement the ideas we presented to them?

[Netanyahu] Nobody here presented a timetable. Nobody is standing here with a stopwatch in his hand.

[Friedman] Thank you, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Baker View of Shamir Ideas Not 'Encouraging'

TA0704181789 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Apr 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "These Are Fruitless Not 'Encouraging' Ideas"]

[Text] Despite the fact that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, following his meeting two days ago with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, described the ideas brought by Shamir as "encouraging," Shamir's disclosure of these ideas yesterday during his meeting with U.S. President George Bush affirm that the assessments of the U.S. secretary are neither encouraging nor correct, unless he has become affected by Shamir's ideas. Either that, or Baker has actually heard a new Shamirian language with which the news media have not had the chance to become acquainted. Consequently, he is endeavoring to find ways to back down from his previous statements in which he called on Israel to engage in dialogue with the PLO.

Is Shamir's persistence in clinging to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as liberated land, encouraging? Is Shamir's remark that the most that Israel can give the Palestinians is autonomy on the basis of the Camp David accords, encouraging? Or is Shamir's talk of holding elections in the occupied territories to select Palestinians in place of the PLO, encouraging?

All the ideas included in Shamir's 4-point plan, which he presented to the U.S. Administration yesterday, call for further vigilance and caution, particularly when they are being welcomed by the U.S. Administration which has, up to now, refused to exert any pressure to induce Israel to alter its policies. This indicates that the U.S. Administration is not serious in its moves to find a comprehensive and durable solution to the region's crisis.

How is it proper to ask the Palestinians, who have made the maximum concessions in order to advance the peace process, to make further concessions at a time when

Israel is still insisting on its old positions and has not advanced even one step toward the numerous Palestinian and Arab steps toward peace?

How is it proper for the U.S. Administration to agree on holding elections in the occupied territories at a time when it is aware that these elections are rejected by the Palestinians and the Arabs? Egyptian President Mubarak informed this administration of the Arab position ruling out elections under occupation and affirming that there is no substitute to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

While listening closely to every word emanating from the U.S. Administration, we hope that this administration will not back down from its positions that are characterized by positiveness in dealing with the Palestinian problem, that it will cease giving assurances to Shamir free of charge, and that it will stop its historic and blind bias in favor of Israel. The road to peace does not pass through flattery of Israel's positions, rather this policy is likely to encourage Shamir to adopt rigid positions that reject even U.S. proposals. It is no secret that the refusal of previous U.S. Administrations to play an unbiased role in the region is what led Israeli policy to become intransigent and to challenge the international consensus.

U.S. No Longer Able To Ignore Nuclear Status

TA0604132989 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Apr 89 p 2

[Commentary by military correspondent Alex Fishman: "The United States Stops Turning a Blind Eye"]

[Text] If the report in the London paper THE INDEPENDENT is true, that the Americans have decided to prohibit Israeli scientists from entering their nuclear installations, it is a poignant and clear signal that the nuclear status the State of Israel had enjoyed with the Americans has changed. Somebody in the new administration decided to do something about the matter.

Israel had for years enjoyed the status of a so-called "threshold country" in the nuclear sense, that is, a country enjoying the benefit of the doubt. This definition also applies to South Africa, India, and Pakistan. As long as there was a great deal of doubt and as long as Israel kept a very low profile in terms of information about what was going on, everybody opted to turn a blind eye. A year ago, when asked to comment on reports about Israel's nuclear capability, a senior U.S. official said: "We know nothing, and it is good that we do not." What was written on the Vanunu affair sowed great confusion in the world, and a long time elapsed before its full meaning was grasped. Confirmation by the superpowers that Israel has nuclear weapons would have forced them to do something, and that is why they chose to ignore the matter. Replying to a question about nuclear capabilities a few months ago, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said he knew nothing about it.

The Soviet attitude took a 180-degree turn in February. During his visit to Cairo, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze talked firmly and at length about Israel's acquisition of nuclear arms. A month earlier he raised the issue at the Paris conference on a chemical weapons disarmament charter. The Arabs mentioned their signing of the charter in the same breath with Israel's nuclear weapons. The issue received front-page coverage and evinced various reactions, including that of the Soviets.

The Americans are very worried about nonconventional weapons in the Middle East. The issue recently gained momentum, partly because of the Israeli public relations offensive against the chemical weapons owned by Syria and Libya and because of the erosion in Israel's status as a threshold country. The doubt, at least as the Americans see it, is gradually vanishing. In the past few months, there have been various reports in the U.S. press attributed to State Department officials dealing with the nuclear issue in Israel. A book by the researcher Leonard Spector on nuclear propagation unequivocally states that Israel has nuclear weapons. The book actually is an annual report and is very respected and accepted by the administration. Administration officials are quoted in the report as saying that Israel has some 60 nuclear warheads. In the past, reports estimated the number of warheads at 200.

Administration officials apparently can no longer argue that they know nothing. The reaction to the change in Israel's status could have come 6 months ago or 1 year hence. What is clear is that the Bush administration is less committed to the intimate relationship that enabled it to turn a blind eye. The United States is today signaling that the game cannot go on. The Americans have always wanted Israel to be under control. Today more than ever.

Israel To Protest USSR Plane Sale to Libya

TA0704071589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Tex] Arye Levin, the Israeli representative in Moscow, has been instructed to formally convey Israel's dismay at the Soviet sale of long-range Sukhoi-24D bombers to Libya, sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

They added that Levin's protest would be identical to the official statement issued yesterday by Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el, who said the sale was causing Israel "deep concern."

Li'el expressed "surprise that the Soviet Union, which states that it seeks to relieve situations of confrontation around the world—including the Middle East—is supplying offensive weaponry to the regime of Al-Qadhdhafi, who does not conceal his intentions to attack Israel."

The statement calls on Moscow to "reconsider its policy on this matter."

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens also condemned the sale, saying that it further threatens the stability in the Middle East. He added that the sale does not contribute towards improved relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Reacting to widespread speculation that the report of the sale was leaked to THE NEW YORK TIMES at Israel's instigation, in order to deflect attention from Prime Minister Shamir's talks in Washington, sources in Jerusalem asserted yesterday that they had no doubt that the U.S. administration had been behind the publication.

The Soviets could be embarrassed on a wide front, the sources said. The disclosure would complicate President Mikhail Gorbachev's meetings in London, and would also create negative repercussions in France, which is concerned about the Libyan threat to Chad.

Weizman Denies Agreeing To Meet With 'Arafat

TA0704064889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 89 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar and Europe-based correspondent Daniyel Dagan]

[Excerpts] HA'ARETZ has learned from senior government sources that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat recently contacted Israeli Cabinet ministers, including Likud members, and proposed to meet with them in order to discuss the possibility of conducting unofficial negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

The contacts with one of the ministers were held through former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. The meeting was to have been held any day now but at the last moment the minister backed out and the meeting was canceled. [passage omitted]

Daniyel Dagan reports: Science and Development Minister 'Ezer Weizman last night denied the report alleging that he had agreed to confer with Yasir 'Arafat through Kreisky's mediation, but had later reneged on his decision.

Weizman, who is currently in Hamburg, said in reply to questions last night: "It is not true that I agreed to meet with 'Arafat. A proposal was raised to conduct a television debate between myself and 'Arafat, with the participation of Bruno Kreisky. I received such an invitation; I do not remember who from. You can ask my secretary in Jerusalem.

"I did not accept the invitation. If I want to see 'Arafat I do not need Kreisky."

New Syrian SAM-5 Battery Aimed at Israel

TA0704080389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Apr 89 p A4

[Report by London-based correspondent Yosef Finkelstone]

[Text] Israeli Intelligence sources say that Syria is currently completing the installation of a fourth SAM-5 missile battery, according to a correspondent for the London magazine FOREIGN REPORT.

The first three batteries, all of which were set up with the assistance of Soviet experts, defend Damascus. The fourth is close to the Jordanian border.

The range of the SAM-5 is 500 km, which means that the missiles are capable of hitting any aircraft which takes off from a base in Israel.

According to FOREIGN REPORT, several Israeli experts believe that the primary aim of the SAM-5 is to attack slow-flying Israeli aircraft which patrol the eastern Mediterranean coastline and jam Syrian radar.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Soldier Injured in Al-Shati'

TA0604182089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] This afternoon in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza an Israeli soldier was slightly wounded in the face. He was taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that seven residents were wounded in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza today. Arab sources, however, report that the number is larger.

More on 6 Apr Incidents

TA0704120889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Apr 89 p 20

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] A Palestinian died yesterday of wounds suffered on Land Day and 17 others were reported wounded, one of them critically, in clashes with troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 7 April, in a page 1 report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin, adds: "According to Palestinian sources, 21 residents sustained gunshot injuries in riots in different locations in the territories: 14 in the West Bank and 7 in the Gaza Strip. The IDF has reported only six people wounded by gunfire."]

During clashes in Bethlehem yesterday, an ASSOCIATED PRESS reporter saw a soldier kneel and shoot a fleeing stone-thrower in the head. According to the AP

report, about 100 protesters threw stones and empty bottles near Manger Square. Four soldiers chased the fleeing rioters and opened fire. One soldier ran after 17-year-old Da'ud Khalid Nasir, knelt, took aim, and shot him from a distance of 40 metres, hitting him on the side of the head.

Nasir was reported in critical condition at Al-Maqasid Hospital, where doctors said a plastic bullet was lodged at the base of his skull. Palestinians said seven other people were wounded in the clash. The IDF confirmed Nasir's injury.

Seven people, including a 19-year-old seriously wounded in the chest and a 12-year-old girl, were reported wounded in clashes at the Tulkarm refugee camp, Nabulus, the 'Askar camp, and at Qabatiyah. In Hebron, an assailant hurled a metal pole at a Jewish settler, injuring him lightly. In the Gaza Strip, three persons were reported wounded. [passage omitted]

In Gaza, the security forces raided the office of the AL-FAJR newspaper, two days after the head of the Civil Administration, Brig. Gen. Arye Shifman, told a group of 16 Palestinian journalists that the army would respect their status as journalists. Troops confiscated documents and summoned the office director to military government headquarters.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 7 April in a report by Dani Tzidqoni on page 2 adds: "Hasan Sarandah, 35, was placed under administrative detention yesterday. He was the editor of the Israeli page in the East Jerusalem daily AL-SHA'B. Sarandah has already served 15 years in prison for hostile activities and for membership in Fatah."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 7 April in a report on page 5 by Roni Shaqed, Hayim Broida, and David Regev adds: "The Civil Administration has recently begun issuing green identity cards to residents suspected of hostile activities and incitement. The bearers of green cards, unlike the orange card bearers, will be forbidden entry into Israeli territory."]

Riots Break Out on Temple Mount

TA0704113089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] On the Temple Mount, severe disturbances broke out, and police were forced to open fire after Muslims ending Friday prayers at the mosque threw a barrage of stones at police. Several hundred worshippers remained in the compound, shouting nationalist slogans, raising the PLO flag, and tearing the Israeli flag to pieces. A foreign TV cameraman was injured in the head by a stone. The Temple Mount is now covered with clouds of tear gas.

In the Hebron area, there were many stone-throwing incidents, mainly at Israeli vehicles. Security forces fired plastic and rubber bullets. No one was hurt.

The condition of one of the two reserves soldiers whose car was hit by a stone yesterday is described as satisfactory. His life is not in danger, but he has a fractured skull. The two were traveling in Qabatiyah in Samaria.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 7 April reports that "early this morning, the Israeli army clamped a curfew on the town of Bayt Hanun in the Gaza Strip, following yesterday's disturbances. A curfew was also imposed on the Al-Shati' refugee camp, where a soldier was slightly wounded yesterday."]

Several Hurt in Temple Riots

TA0704144689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Five policemen were wounded by stones thrown by rioters in the course of disturbances this afternoon on the Temple Mount. Three policemen were moderately injured. Three Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall were struck by stones. A cameraman for an Austrian television crew was also mildly injured. Three Arab rioters were injured by rubber bullets fired by the police.

Thirty-seven people were arrested, most of them from Gaza.

Deputy Commander Yosef Yehuday, the commander of the Jerusalem police, told correspondents that he believes Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] is responsible for organizing the demonstrations and riots. He pointed out that severe measures will be adopted next week to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents.

5 Passengers From Lebanese Vessel Released

TA0704095189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Israel released five of the passengers who were on board a vessel detained this week en route from Beirut to Cyprus. As will be recalled, the Navy took 14 passengers off the vessel for interrogation. To repeat, five of them were released. Our correspondent quotes Lebanese sources as saying that the five were transferred to the International Red Cross and released. The remaining nine passengers are still under arrest and are being interrogated.

Hebron Leader, Ben-Aharon Discuss Autonomy

TA0704120589 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Some time before Shamir's trip to Washington, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director of the Prime Minister's Office, met with Jamil al-'Amlah, head of the Hebron Village League. The Arab representative voiced the Village League's request to be responsible for autonomy once the political process moves forward. Jamil al-'Amlah asked for a comprehensive meeting with the

prime minister's staff after his return from Washington. Our correspondent has learned from the Prime Minister's Office that it is true that Ben-Aharon met with Palestinian figures, but the source would not disclose their identity. He was told that in any event, the concept of transferring the authority to the Village Leagues "is not the prime minister's political line."

The Civil Administration in the territories was not party to this move, and officers in the defense establishment told our correspondent privately that they had reservations about the issue. Jamil al-'Amlah is abroad and his comment could not be obtained.

Activists Express 'Great Interest' in Rabin Plan

TA0704112489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by Middle East editor Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Most Palestinian activists summoned to meet top officials of the Civil Administration in the last few weeks have expressed great interest in the details of Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's plan for the territories, and especially his proposals for elections, according to security sources.

The heads of the Civil Administration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have in a series of meetings spoken with well over 400 Palestinian activists representing a cross-section of political opinion, including persons affiliated with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), Fatah, the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, the Communist party and pro-Jordanians.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 6 April in a report by Pinhas 'Inbari on pages 1 and 17, adds: "Our correspondent has learned that the civilian governor of Hebron paid an unprecedented visit to the local Red Crescent Association, and that the Red Crescent reciprocated with a visit to the governor. To date, the army authorities have viewed the Red Crescent as a PLO-supporting body."]

Many of these activists said during the talks that Rabin's plan is interesting, and could be the basis for future negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. They also expressed particular interest in Rabin's proposal for elections, but said that they cannot act on it without the approval of the PLO.

The holding of elections was reportedly a major topic in a meeting Wednesday between the head of the West Bank Civil Administration, Brig. Gen. Shay Erez, and 16 Palestinian activists from the Bethlehem area. For the first time in such meetings, it was agreed that another session would be held in two weeks.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 7 March in a report by Pinhas 'Inbari, Avi Bnayahu, and Ayelet Mazor on page 3 adds: "Our correspondent has learned that the meeting with Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the West Bank Civil Administration, which took place 2 days ago in Bethlehem, was also attended by two communists, who are seen as leaders in the West Bank. One of them is 'Abd al-Majid Hamdan, who writes the key article in the communist publication 'AL TALI'AH on a regular basis."]

The discussions have taken place despite warnings in leaflets issued by the underground leadership of the uprising, and a statement by "national figures" demanding the suspension of such meetings before Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's trip to the U.S. Continued meetings, the statement cautioned, would enable Shamir to claim that there is an alternative negotiating partner to the PLO.

While Palestinians have been summoned to the meetings and did not initiate them, the fact remains that they answered the summonses, and appeared, despite the warnings.

The highly publicized meetings are in keeping with Rabin's plan to promote talks with local Palestinians instead of with the PLO, though security sources have categorically denied reports that the meetings are actually creating a framework for elections in the territories.

Palestinian Notables Urge 'Firm' U.S. Stand

TA0704151189 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 6 Apr 89 pp 1, 11

[Report by Khalid Abu 'Akr]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Palestinian notables in the occupied territories have called on the U.S. Administration to adopt firm positions toward Israeli intransigence on the chances of establishing peace in the Middle East.

In an interview with AL-FAJR yesterday, these notables affirmed their rejection of the concept of elections proposed by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. They stressed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and is the competent party to represent the Palestinians in any negotiations for establishing peace.

The Palestinian notables referred to the peace initiatives put forward by the PLO and the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council in Algiers, emphasizing that no response has yet been given to these Palestinian initiatives in a manner that is comparable to their comprehensiveness and capacity for establishing peace.

The Palestinian notables welcomed the remarks by U.S. President George Bush, who called for an end to Israeli occupation and convocation of an international conference. They expressed their hope that the U.S. Administration will apply pressure on the Israeli prime minister so that he will respond positively to the Palestinian peace appeals. [passage omitted]

Additional 'Goodwill Gestures' Considered

TA0604121589 [Editorial Report]

Two Hebrew-language Israeli newspapers on 6 April report on the goodwill gestures Israel plans to make during the Ramadan season.

A report by Uri Nir and Eytan Rabin on page 2 of HA'ARETZ notes that these gestures will include "a moratorium on the demolition of illegally built houses and the removal of walls sealing up the homes of people suspected of throwing stones and firebombs. Yesterday two entrances were already unsealed in Nabulus and the electricity supply to two villages that had been cut off the power grid for several months was resumed."

HADASHOT carries several items on the issue. A report by Ilan Kfir on page 3 notes that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is examining various gestures toward the United States and the Palestinians in a bid to promote the chances of the political process. One of the possibilities he is contemplating is "a symbolic removal of Israeli army troops from various densely populated areas," while other gestures under consideration include "complying with the U.S. request to freeze the implementation of deportation orders against rioters" and "the reopening of schools in the territories." In this context, a report by several correspondents on page 7 points out that "Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip, announced yesterday that over the past 2 days two schools were reopened in Gaza and a third in Khan Yunus."

A report by Oren Kohen and Mikhal Qedem on page 6 goes on to say that additional gestures announced yesterday by Major General 'Amram Mitzna' include "lifting the curfew from Qabatiyah and Battir" and the "reopening of two alleys in Qalqilyah." The Civil Administration is reportedly "working feverishly to approve applications for family reunions."

Prisoner Release Scheduled

TA0604181589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The IDF spokesman has said that more security prisoners will be released in several stages before the Muslim holiday of 'Id al-Fitr.

Brigadier General Efrayim Lapid enumerated the lenient measures the Civil Administration has taken on the eve of Ramadan, which begins tomorrow, in a bid to help the population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that besides the release of 465 security prisoners, the army has decided to instruct the security forces to abstain from entering mosques. The army has also enabled special food-related arrangements for Muslims who fast during daytime. The spokesman further said that the forces have been instructed not to confiscate property without prior coordination with and approval of the Civil Administration.

Sharon Discusses Solutions to 'Uprising'

TA0104114789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Yosi 'Abadi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abadi] The prime minister will leave next week for the United States, and the U.S. Administration is expecting him to present new ideas. Have you or would you propose to the prime minister some new ideas to present in Washington?

[Sharon] First, I wish the prime minister bon voyage. I know he is going on a very difficult trip. Still, I believe he will be able to present Israel's positions. There are a series of things I would tell the Americans: First, that Israel must put an end to the violence, the terror, and the Palestinian riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip that have already penetrated into Israel, and mainly to its capital, Jerusalem. Although it is late, we still have matters in our hands. There is no possibility, in my opinion, of making progress in a process of negotiations if Israel does not put an immediate end to what is now happening.

['Abadi] Meaning that you do not accept the assessment that the intifadah [uprising] requires a political solution?

[Sharon] There is no connection between the present state of affairs and political negotiations. The only connection is that no political process is possible for as long as the violence and terror continue. This is the sole connection. This issue should be solved separately from any form of political negotiations.

[Vessely] What then, in your opinion, should the defense minister do tomorrow morning?

[Sharon] I have made my opinion on this issue clear many times. There is no point in my now repeating my position. I wish to stress, however, that we must tell the Americans that we should not enter, and there is no possibility of entering, negotiations of any sort before the Palestinian violence stops. It should be stressed that the violence should stop through our own force, and not as a result of some arrangement by way of compromise or outside arbitration, not even by our American friends, in a form of so called cease-fire or disengagement. If we do otherwise, terror and riots may chase us from one line of surrender to another, without peace and without security.

We should realize that there is no possibility of living in a situation that we have gotten used to calling relative calm—unless of course Jews agree to live like that.

Yesterday, for example, a firebomb was thrown in Nazareth, four firebombs were thrown in Jerusalem, a hand grenade was thrown at a Jewish car on the 'Afula-Nazareth highway, a firebomb was thrown in Al-Tayyibah, stones were thrown in Yafo. I only refer to a small part of what actually took place. Israel must put an end to it. This must be realized by all. It is up to Israel alone and not as part of some sort of arrangement.

['Abadi] You are aware, however, of the fact that the Americans believe, in accordance with the recently leaked intelligence report, that all steps must be accompanied by some sort of political plan. Do you believe that at this stage Israel should avoid presenting or talking about a new political arrangement?

[Sharon] First, I wish to stress unequivocally, as someone who participates in the Inner Cabinet meetings, that the Intelligence Branch has never presented the Inner Cabinet with a report or a position claiming that there is no way to achieve calm or attain political negotiations without talking to the PLO. It would be advisable for the military level to come out and unequivocally deny the whole issue the way the defense minister has.

['Abadi] But this is not what was said. The report says that a political solution is needed in order to solve the problem of the intifadah.

[Sharon] There is no connection between a political solution and this issue. We are dealing here with terror organizations that have a goal—the destruction of Israel. 'Arafat himself has instructed the only organization subordinate to him, the Fatah, to continue terror in Israel. Fatah may be out of power in Lebanon, for various reasons. Apart from this we must consider the other organizations, those of George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, Ahmad Jibril, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], and Tal'at Ya'qub.

['Abadi] Are you suggesting that the prime minister say nothing new in Washington?

[Sharon] I believe that we should say a number of things, and I would like to continue detailing them. It must be made clear in Washington that Israel will never enter negotiations with the PLO—either directly nor indirectly—not with PLO members, and of course not with their overt or covert representatives. I believe that if we want to advance peace we must clearly demand in Washington that they stop the dialogue with the PLO—a phenomenon that endangers our future and existence. In addition, we must demand that all terror organizations be dismantled through pressure by the United States and Western democracies on the Arab countries that host them.

Unlike in the past, when Lebanon was an independent terror kingdom, today terror has an address. Terror organizations reside in Arab countries, most of which enjoy support by the Western democracies in various forms. We should demand pressure from the democracies for one major reason alone. Of course, we have an interest in the total elimination of the terror organizations—they are Israel's biggest enemies. Our demand, however, should be based on one reason only: There is no way to make progress toward peace negotiations as long as 'Arafat is the most accepted figure. As long as terror organizations are active there will be no Arab leader with whom to talk. There will be no Palestinian leader who would dare face a threat on his life and sit at the negotiating table.

['Abadi] Yes, but these things are not new. They have been said before to the Americans, and they still maintain negotiations with the PLO.

[Sharon] I think this is a mistake. There are other things that need to be said, but let me answer you first. I believe that Israel must make it clear that it will not go forward with any negotiations for as long as a U.S. or Western dialogue with the PLO continues. We must make it clear that Israel will not enter negotiations as long as there is no unequivocal demand by the United States and other countries to dismantle terror organizations. Let us face it, we are playing with our own life here.

This is, of course, not the only thing we must tell the Americans. We must make it clear to them that apart from the elimination of the terror organizations we have another precondition for peace: A solution of the refugee problem. As long as this problem exists peace can never be maintained, even if we sign an agreement. I want to be realistic on this matter. I know we cannot deal with the refugees in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, although their living conditions are terrible. There are, however, some 200,000 refugees within the boundaries of Eretz Yisra'el, of which some 200,000 [as heard] are in Gaza. I would suggest that this be made a major project, a major contribution for peace, and an international operation should be undertaken. Gaza can definitely be made a progressive industrial and urban area. This would constitute a major contribution to peace.

['Abadi] Mr Sharon, can you please be realistic in your attitude toward the U.S.-PLO relations. We stand no chance of attaining what you are asking, namely that the United States stop its connections with the PLO. The question is should we not be more realistic in relation to the fact that the United States, our best and biggest friend, is holding contacts with the PLO [words indistinct]?

[Sharon] I want to be realistic first and foremost about a single issue: the life and safety of Jews. That is why when we are faced with a situation that poses a threat to the existence of the Jews and the State of Israel, we have to know what to say and be firm about it. I do not regard myself an extreme person. There is, however, only one issue on which I am an extremist: The issue of the life of Jews.

At the same time, other things must be said. In my opinion, we should make clear today, not at the end of the process, what Israel can do. We should say: A Palestinian state already exists; Jordan is Palestine. It constitutes 75 percent of Eretz Yisra'el, and there will never be a second Palestinian state. We must make clear that the issue of Jerusalem is not open for negotiations. It is, and will always be, united under Israeli sovereignty, the capital of Israel and the Jewish people, and no foreign element will be granted any form of status there.

['Abadi] These things have been said before...

[Sharon, interrupting] There are many things that have been said before and need to be repeated and stressed. Anything of importance to the existence of the Jews has to be said over and over again, even 1,000 times. At the same time, we must definitely say that we are proposing an autonomy for the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. In this autonomy, however, Israel will continue supervising security, and its forces will enjoy freedom of movement. Otherwise we would not be able to take preemptive measures against terror acts, and we would not be able to chase the murderers after such acts. We would not be able to punish them.

['Abadi] Are you in favor of holding elections in the territories?

[Sharon] What will these elections achieve? Elections could be a part of an arrangement. An arrangement can be made when there is calm. Who will be elected today? The same people will be elected whether we call the elections general or municipal. In both cases—under the current situation where the terror organizations are in control of the streets—those elected will be PLO men. We will never be able to reach any agreement with the PLO. That is why I believe that today it is important not to point at interim stages, rather we must present a general plan. Specifically, this plan must say that there is a Palestinian state.

This plan must say who will be in charge of security. Of course, we must mention the central status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. We have to stress the issue of a solution to the refugee problem, and insist on the need to restore calm and order. We must explain to the Americans as well that the main threat is the formation of a Palestinian state. If riots and demonstrations continue, if they continue naming 'Arafat president or prime minister and declare their independence, and this process develops, the State of Israel should provide an answer. The only realistic answer is a defense-oriented settlement deployment in East Jerusalem, and in Judaea and Samaria, to prevent Palestinian territorial continuity. These measures will both defend our life and provide a large contribution to peace. Today we must speak clearly.

['Abadi] Mr Sharon, has Mr Shamir consulted you on what he is taking to Washington with him?

[Sharon] No.

['Abadi] Do you think it would have been better if he consulted the government on his ideas?

[Sharon] I believe that when you go on such a mission consultations must be made in the appropriate forums, and with people who are familiar with the issue and can contribute to it. This, however, is no longer the issue. The main issue is whether Israel will adopt the necessary firm stand when dealing with matters of the most crucial importance to its existence, mainly the life of Jews.

['Abadi] Do you fear that Yitzhaq Shamir will perhaps propose new ideas that may take you by surprise?

[Sharon] I do not know what the prime minister is about to suggest. I believe that the prime minister is aware of the existing dangers. I believe that in his mission—in which I wish him success—he will take all the steps needed to make Israel stronger, and to present its positions in that firm way that will make it clear to our best of friends—and the United States is our best friend—that there are issues on which Israel makes no compromises. When the issue is the life of Jews, Israel is uncompromising.

['Abadi] Minister Ari'el Sharon, thank you.

[Sharon] Thank you.

Sports Agreement Signed With Hungary

TA0504171289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The first sports agreement of its kind was signed this afternoon between Hungary and Israel at the Sport Federation office. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilnay reports that the main points of the agreement are: exchange of sports delegations and trainers between the two countries, exchange of sports know-how, and Hungarian aid for senior trainers and judges.

Tourism Agreement Approved

TA0604145189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] This week the Israeli Government approved a tourism agreement with Hungary based only on business. It includes joint investments in tourism, more liberal traffic and flight procedures in both countries, exchange of information on tourism services, and cooperation in international tourism markets.

Norway's Stoltenberg Pays Official Visit

Arrives for Talks

TA0304060489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Norway's Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg arrived in Israel last night for a 2-day visit. During his stay he will have talks with Prime Minister Shamir, Vice Premier Peres, and Foreign Minister Arens.

At Ben-Gurion Airport, Stoltenberg said he would raise the issue of the heavy water Norway sold to Israel. He told reporters Norway had no specific demands in this regard beyond what was agreed upon with Israel 30 years ago.

Also expected to be raised at the talks are recent tensions between Israeli soldiers and Norwegian troops serving with the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon. The ITIM News Agency says the foreign minister told reporters he knew of no problems as far as this was concerned.

Meets With Arens

TA0304122089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister is preparing for his trip to the United States. Foreign Minister Arens, who returned from the United States only a few weeks ago, is not joining the prime minister. He does not expect any confrontation between Washington and Jerusalem. He defines the talks the prime minister will hold in the White House as exploratory talks devoid of pressure, although differences may arise.

This morning Moshe Arens met with his Norwegian counterpart. After their meeting, our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen asked the foreign minister to comment on the prime minister's visit to Washington.

[Begin recording] [Arens] I do not anticipate pressure. I think Israel and the United States have a relationship of friendship, of alliance, I would say, that is simply incompatible with pressure.

[Kohen] There has never been any period characterized by full accord in every sphere between the United States and Israel. The foreign minister adds: I doubt that there is full accord between the United States and Egypt. We expected the United States to welcome a tripartite meeting between President Mubarak, President Bush, and Prime Minister Shamir, but the Egyptians refused to hold such a meeting. There are differences of opinion between friends, but as is usually the case between friends, they will be cleared amicably.

[Arens] The prime minister is about to arrive in Washington. He may find that some of the differences we had feared do not exist, while problems which we have not considered do crop up. Let us wait for his return.

[Kohen] I am not joining Shamir on his trip, says the foreign minister, because we wish to maintain a continuity of official Israeli visits.

[Arens] We discussed the composition of the prime minister's entourage and considered various possibilities, including one in which I would be one of the accompanying officials. It was decided that it would be better if I stayed here, as I have just visited Washington. We are sending Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu instead. I will be in the United States in May, which will give us a continuity of visits.

[Kohen] The foreign minister made these remarks after his meeting with Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, who is here to discuss Norwegian supervision of the use of the heavy water his country gave Israel in 1959. The two sides agreed on a supervision procedure about 1 year ago, but the Norwegian Parliament has demanded that some of the clauses be amended.

The talks also covered the Norwegian contingent in southern Lebanon and the need to improve its relations with Israel. The foreign minister said: We have agreed to raise the issue in the United Nations and to find ways to improve techniques and to prevent future mishaps.

[Stoltenberg—in English] And we agreed that I shall raise with the United Nations the possibilities for making [words indistinct] techniques to prevent incidents in the future. [end recording]

Heavy Water Pact 'Scrapped'

TA0404093889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Israeli-Norwegian agreement on heavy water, initialled last summer after months of tough negotiations, was effectively scrapped yesterday as Jerusalem agreed to reopen talks on Norwegian inspection rights.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Israel and Norway had agreed that experts would examine the "degree of consistency" between the June 1988 accord and the original 1959 agreement by which Norway sold Israel 20 tons of heavy water.

But Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg told THE JERUSALEM POST that the June 1988 agreement "was unsatisfactory. It is a non-starter."

Officials of both foreign ministries will launch the renewed talks in the near future, sources here said. Israel's team is expected to be headed by Foreign Ministry assistant director-general Eytan Bentzur.

Norwegian parliamentarians have contended that Israel used the heavy water to manufacture nuclear weapons. Last summer's initialled agreement permitted Norway to

inspect the nine tons of water Israel claims remains of the original 21 and "envisaged" negotiations on eventual inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agench (IAEA).

Israel objects to Norway's present demands that the inspection take place inside the nuclear facilities in Dimona; that it cover the use of the water in the past and not only in the future; and that Jerusalem's commitment to IAEA inspection be more binding and more comprehensive.

It is understood that the IAEA refuses to accept "piecemeal" inspection rights, and will agree to participate in inspections only if all nuclear facilities in a country are opened to it.

On Lack of Understanding

TA0404095089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Norwegian criticism of Israel's policies in the territories stems from the Norwegian people's enduring friendship towards Israel, Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg said yesterday.

"The friendship is still there," Stoltenberg said in an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, "but frankly we cannot understand your policies. We cannot understand your handling of people in the occupied territories. From all the reports we get, it's difficult to understand why one should meet stone-throwing with guns."

On a two-day visit here, Stoltenberg met yesterday with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens. Last week's Middle East policy statement of the Nordic foreign ministers—which, among others, called for talks between Israel and the PLO and denounced Israel's "repressive" measures in the territories—was severely criticized by Arens. The foreign minister told Stoltenberg that encouragement of the PLO is detrimental to the peace process, which would be better served by support for Israel.

Stoltenberg said that he had explained "the developments in my country, and I think there have been similar developments in all the Nordic countries. We have for years demanded from the PLO, from 'Arafat, to recognize Israel's right to secure and recognized borders. We have demanded that 'Arafat denounce terrorism, and we have not been satisfied. But then together with a lot of other countries, we felt that these demands had been met in Geneva last year. So we thought we should follow up and utilize that situation."

Stoltenberg deflects the charge that criticism of Israel is counterproductive by saying: "I cannot necessarily agree, because I feel that we must be able to criticise, we must be able to pursue a policy different from Israel's and we must be allowed to believe that our policy is constructive."

The plans Shamir will take to the U.S. were discussed with the prime minister. "I asked him to give me the background and explanations."

Stoltenberg hesitates before he offers his evaluation of the prime minister's plans, and finally comes up with: "My imediate reaction is that it is a good thing that there is a move, an initiative."

Besides the intifadah [uprising], the factor most damaging to Israel's image in Norway is the series of widely-publicized incidents involving the Norwegian contingent of UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon]. "The Norwegian people are fully aware that when you put troops in a place such as Lebanon there is danger involved, but they don't expect this danger to come from Israel," Stoltenberg said.

But he was "most encouraged by his talks with Shamir and Arens on this matter. "I raised the issue and the reply was that there was scepticism about UNIFIL, but that now there is increasing awareness in Israel that UNIFIL has a role to play. I was told that the Israeli government will do its utmost to prevent incidents in the future....I place much value on that answer and I will report it to the UN."

Tank 'Advanced' Fire Control System Developed

TA0304142389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Apr 89 p 4

[Report by Tamir Shefer]

[Text] In a joint engineering effort, the Elbit and El-Op companies have developed the advanced fire control system Shafir for the Israel Defense Forces' M-60 and Centurion tanks. The system, which is installed in either the tank turret or the tank's gun, considerably improves the performance of the tank's weapon system.

The features of the new fire control include stabilized sight lines enabling particularly accurate hits under both stationary and mobile conditions. The system has other advantages, such as the ability to operate both in daylight and at night, as well as a shorter target ranging time. The system is computerized and allows the gunner and the commander to maintain relatively simple and convenient control.

Elbit has recently won an international tender from the Australian Navy for the planning and production of four sophisticated antennae. The project, whose value is estimated at over $500,000, is the first of its kind executed by an Israeli company for the Australian Navy. The first antenna has already been delivered, 3 months before the scheduled deadline.

Paper Criticizes Bush Acceptance of Shamir Plan

JN0704090898 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Apr 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Bush-Shamir: Movement Against the Current"]

[Text] The acceptance by the U.S. President of Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories is against many facts established as facts by international politics about the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The first such fact is the fully supported international demand for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, under the known characteristics that ensure the application of the land for peace principle and take into consideration the interests and rights of all parties to the conflict.

There is also the unanimous Arab movement along the road of a lasting and comprehensive peace. The Arabs made available all the conditions and set the appropriate scene for the convening of such a conference, waiting for Israel to comply with or be forced to accept the available peace opportunity, for which there is no alternative other than burning the region with the fire of new bitter and devastating wars.

Also on the list is what the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, offered, showing extreme good faith and a sincere effort to restore peace, provided this peace is just, lasting, and comprehensive.

Above all this, the intifadah [uprising] emerges. An entire people has been expressing, through blood and martyrdom, their rejection of occupation and insistence on its removal. They are determined to establish an independent Palestinian state, achieve their national legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination, and reject all attempts to deflect their sole legitimate representative by fabricating alternative leaders and symbols, which would only prolong the crisis and open the door for its explosion through the only method used by the Zionist entity—namely, aggresssion, war, expansion, and settlement.

Ignoring the determination of an entire people to achieve their national rights and ignoring international will, Arab unanimity, and the PLO response to the requirements of a just and lasting peace shows that the U.S. Administration, through its acceptance of Shamir's plan, continues its bias toward the aggressor, the occupier, and the terrorist and continues its insistence on regarding narrow Israeli considerations and disregarding the wide objective considerations. This is a deviation from the course of right and justice and a retreat from movement toward solving the oldest and most violent of all regional crises.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. option, represented in excluding the PLO, returning to the blocked Camp David road, and objecting to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, is out of the new general trend that gave us hope. This trend was represented by the United States' advancing toward the Middle East conflict with a new face, claiming detachment, integrity, justice, and universal reponsibility.

Parliamentary Elections Slated for November

JN0404151689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that new general elections will be held in Jordan next November after the Ministry of Interior finishes preparing the new election law. According to this law, the number of the House of Representatives members has been set at 76 deputies.

AL-ITTIHAD also learned that the new law has redivided the consituencies in all the governorates and districts of the Kingdom after the special constituencies of the occupied West Bank were cancelled, as well as the 11 seats which were allocated to the 11 Palestinian camps in Jordan.

AL-ITTIHAD has also learned that the new election law has given all Jordanians the right to nominate themselves regardless of their birthplace. It is noteworthy that the former Jordanian House of Representatives, which was dissolved in 1988 after the decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, consisted of 142 deputies.

Industry Minister Meets Cypriot Economic Group

JN0404164589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Amman—Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' today met with the Cypriot economic delegation which is currently visiting Jordan.

During the meeting they discussed the development of economic cooperation between Jordan and Cyprus. The two sides also discussed ways to increase the volume of bilateral trade through industrial and trade exhibitions with the aim of acquainting the people with products of both states.

They also examined the progress of the implementation of the trade protocol signed by the two countries and the possibility of exchanging visits by trade delegations and surmounting the difficulties which stand in the way of the flow of commodities between the two countries.

LA REPUBBLICA Interviews Michel 'Awn

PM0404155289 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 2-3 Apr 89 p 15

[Fabio Scuto report on interview with General Michel 'Awn in Beirut conducted by telex from Rome; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] [Scuto] Prime Minister, why did you decree a blockade on the ports controlled by the Muslim militia, thus prompting a response from the Druzes and Shi'ites?

['Awn] I never decreed the blockade on the ports controlled by the militias, which are much more pro-Syrian than Muslim. A government leader who implements his country's law within its territory does not decree a blockade. The use of this term is a judicial error. I merely applied the law to all the country's illegal ports, both Muslim and Christian. Of course, those whose private interests were harmed used this pretext for the sake of a military escalation: They are the Syrians and their Lebanese allies.

I would like to point out that the closure of these illegal ports has always been an international demand of the Arab countries and a dream for the Lebanese, to put an end to the terrorism originating from Lebanese shores. The Syrians themselves urged, almost demanded, that we close these illegal ports and exercise our authority and promised us their support.

[Scuto] Your country has two governments, has had no president for several months, and has only half its number of parliamentary deputies.

['Awn] There are not two governments in my country. On the one hand there is a constitutional and legal government for the whole of Lebanon and on the other there are a few members of an old government which the Syrian occupation forces would like to invest with some semblance of authority. All that is going on in the areas controlled by the Syrian occupiers stems certainly not from the Lebanese people's will but merely from Damascus' vested interests.

[Scuto] In Tunis the Arab League has been mediating for months between your government and that of the Muslim Salim al-Huss, but meanwhile in Beirut the shooting continues.

['Awn] The fact is that the Arab mediation is desired only by my government, while Syria tries to hide behind the Lebanese screen. But none of the Syrians' other allies in Lebanon has succeeded in providing the occupiers with a real "cover." Arab countries that have had similar experiences in the past are very well aware of this, as are European countries that experienced the torment of occupation in the past. As for the recent bombardments, obviously it is the Syrians whose gunfire is decimating the civilian population, destroying official institutions, and the country's economic structures and hospitals.

[Scuto] Prime Minister, at the start of your term you attempted a compromise with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad—a solution opposed by your own allies—and now it is open war. Do you think you would emerge victorious from a military confrontation with the Syrians?

['Awn] I am keen to state that I have never tried to reach a compromise with President al-Asad. As for the result of an open conflict with Syria, there are eloquent historical precedents for liberation wars: Victory is certain in the long term.

[Scuto] You sent U.S. President George Bush a message concerning the tragic situation in Lebanon. Can you reveal to us what it said?

['Awn] I sent messages not only to President Bush but also to other international personalities and bodies asking them to honor the commitments they made by signing international resolutions, to implement treaties, and to align with the side in the right. [Scuto] After the end of the Gulf War an awkward ally appeared at your side: Saddam Husayn's Iraq—one of Syria's sworn enemies. Do you ever have the feeling you are involved in a war game whose stakes have been determined elsewhere?

['Awn] I would like to tell you, first, that we are fighting a defense war against Syria on our own national territory. We are not involved in any war games and certainly are not considering waging war on Syria on Syrian territory. On the other hand, any help is welcome in a liberation war such as ours.

[Scuto] Any country that has left itself exposed in the quest for a solution to civil war has paid dearly for its endeavor—attacks, blackmail, kidnaps. Who is the brains behind this strategy?

['Awn] It is still the Syrian occupier that is destabilizing the country by organizing attacks, blackmail, and kidnaps. Syria uses Lebanon as a support base for terrorism and drug trafficking, but also for destabilizing other areas of the world. Within this gloomy scenario there is an oasis of freedom divorced from the occupation and administered by legal authorities, which seeks to eradicate these evils from Lebanese territory. I would be stating only part of the truth if I were to claim that the whole world wants to support Lebanon to end the nightmare of drugs and terrorism financed by the Syrians throughout the world.

[Scuto] Lebanese extremists still hold many Westerners. You have frequently given the impression that you know the nature of the obscure conspiracies concealed behind this affair, but that you do not want to talk about them because it would be inopportune to do so.

['Awn] Contrary to what is believed, I have always broached this issue very clearly, offering all possible help in the hostages affair. We have not forgotten the kidnapped Westerners, but do you not believe that the world is ignoring not only the dozen Westerners but also the over 4 million Lebanese who are hostages of the Syrians?

[Scuto] Why do the terrorists most keenly sought by the police forces of the entire world find bases, support, and finance in your country?

['Awn] Thank you for this question, the key to which lies in the Syrians' conspiracies, as I told you. It is they who welcome, host, and train all the terrorists. By freeing our national territory from Syrian occupation, we will be putting an end to this scourge, which threats all world democracies.

LIBERATION Interviews 'Awn on Conflict

PM0604112089 Paris LIBERATION in French 3 Apr 89 pp 17,18

[Interview with Michel 'Awn by Marc Kravetz in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] Beirut—LIBERATION: Last week you ordered a unilateral cease-fire in response to the Arab League's appeal. On the ground, the shelling continues virtually every day. You want direct negotiations with Damascus which refuses to negotiate and refers you to Lebanese interlocutors whom you do not recognize. How can this situation be overcome?

Michel 'Awn: The only solution to the deadlock is Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon. That is the only solution which could put Lebanon back on the path to solving its crisis. As long as the Syrian Army is in Lebanon, it will manipulate its collaborators to maintain a state of constant instability in the country. The Syrian technique is well known. Tension must be maintained because, if there is calm, people will wonder what the Syrian troops are doing in Lebanon. But they do not overstep a threshold of violence which would make Syria the guilty party in the world's eyes. It is like the temperature of the engine: If it is too cold it will not start, if it is too hot it is likely to explode. That has been going on for 12 years; people have realized that and have had enough.

LIBERATION: Syria is not the only country involved in the Lebanese affair....

Michel 'Awn: That is obvious. The current battle is with Syria, but when we talk of national liberation, the aim is to put an end to all the foreign forces interfering in Lebanon. This applies to the Israelis and the Syrians and all the people the latter brought with them—the Libyans, the Iranians, the terrorist groups which are proliferating in their shadow. Thanks to Syria, we have become the home of terrorism, but also of drugs. Syrian officers control poppy cultivation in the Al-Biqa' and derive huge profits from it. The Lebanese no longer want their country to be a hotbed of international terrorism and a poppy field.

LIBERATION: Do you seriously think you can secure a Syrian withdrawal by force?

Michel 'Awn: But I want to negotiate. I repeatedly say so. I believe in dialogue. Unfortunately, it takes two to have a dialogue. Syria can only impose its rule by threats and settle political disputes by guns. If Damascus wants to negotiate I am ready to do so. Otherwise the only course is resistance. We will attack Syrian positions. Several operations have already taken place in West Beirut and Tripoli in the north. There will be others.

LIBERATION: Do you mean outside the Christian regions?

Michel 'Awn: The resistance is not being put up by the Christians but by the Lebanese. Muslims are taking part in it as well as Christians. The so-called Christian army which I command in our areas is 30 percent Muslim. And, believe me, the Syrians have spared no effort to prevent soldiers from other areas from joining us by exerting pressure on their families or village leaders.

LIBERATION: The fact remains that Lebanon now has two governments. The administration and public services are divided. This is a fact which cannot be disregarded even when you say you head the country's only legitimate government.

Michel 'Awn: It is the only legitimate government. The government which I chair was appointed by the outgoing president in accordance with the Lebanese Constitution. What is the government chaired by Salim al-Huss other than the result of a Syrian coup? The Syrians refused to recognize my government. They used force to prevent Muslim ministers from taking up their posts and ordered Salim al-Huss and his ministers to form their own government. What legitimacy does it have? Not only is it not constitutional, but it cannot even claim de facto power derived from the people's will.

The only will which can be expressed on the other side is that of the occupying power. Of course the division which you mention really exists. But it too is the result of the occupation. Syria wants to break Lebanese national unity, to partition Lebanon, and separate its institutions. It has succeeded in doing so physically, but I do not see why we should bow to this situation. The Syrians also wanted to crush the Army and they have given Sami al-Khatib command of the Army in the occupied regions. What is really happening?

Officially, the units receive their pay from Sami al-Khatib, because the Central Bank is in the other sector, but they do not obey him. So far, nobody has been able

to persuade the soldiers under his orders to take action against the free area, the central government, or the Army commander. That is a fact too.

LIBERATION: You say you believe in dialogue. But you refuse to have talks with the Lebanese leaders on the "other side." How can the crisis be resolved if you do not have inter-Lebanese talks?

Michel 'Awn: We tried to talk with everybody before the Tunis meeting and after it (the first session of the Arab League Ministerial Commission on Lebanon—LIBERATION editor's note), but it is our interlocutors who are unable to talk. How do you expect to have a serious conversation when they have to interrupt the session to ask Damascus' opinion before making any decision at all? There are only two ways of proceeding: Either we do without Syria or we have direct talks with it.

LIBERATION: You are not making things easier by accusing Salim al-Huss of "high treason."

Michel 'Awn: I cannot accept that a man who regards himself as Lebanese should accuse the Lebanese Army of perpetrating crimes when he remains silent about the occupying army's crimes, which are real. We refrained from shelling the enemy's artillery positions, which were in residential areas, for a week. Then, when the pressure was too great and we no longer had any choice, we warned the population 3 hours before we opened fire. The Syrians, however, have no hesitation in firing on hospitals or inhabited areas and on the economic infrastructures of our sector.

LIBERATION: You say you are not shelling civilian areas, but, at the start of the conflict, the shelling of a densely populated area of West Beirut claimed numerous lives. Was that a "blunder?"

Michel 'Awn: The Lebanese Army had nothing to do with that shelling. Mr al-Huss called for an Arab commission of inquiry. I want that too. I am prepared to provide answers. I know the positions of Syrian artillery and the pro-Syrian militia from which they fire on West Beirut.

LIBERATION: So, in this specific case, do you officially accuse Syria of firing on the West?

Michel 'Awn: Yes, and it is not the only case. This is another old Syrian technique for forcing the Lebanese to tear each other apart a little more and to make the world think the conflict is purely an internal Lebanese conflict.

LIBERATION: The other side says there will be no cease-fire while you maintain the blockade on the ports....

Michel 'Awn: What blockade? I am not imposing any blockade. I decided to close all the illegal ports in Lebanon, in all sectors. All the leaders agreed, including Salim al-Huss, and the ports in that sector were closed. The aim was to give the state its due and to enable the public treasury to collect customs duties and the legal authorities to control shipping movements. The legal ports of Sidon and Tyre are functioning in the south and the port of Tripoli is functioning. They are not areas under our control.

On the other hand, the Syrian Army is preventing the ports of Beirut and Juniyah from operating. We cannot import oil. That is the truth. Why do they want to maintain two illegal ports at any cost? There are three reasons. For arms trafficking, for drug trafficking, and to enable terrorists to travel freely.

LIBERATION: Aside from an unlikely military solution, what political and diplomatic action do you intend to take?

Michel 'Awn: I sent a letter to the five permanent UN Security Council members. Some claim I want to internationalize the Lebanese crisis, as if the Lebanese crisis had not been internationalized before I came to power. Several resolutions have been taken by the Security Council, all of which stipulate the withdrawal of foreign troops from my country. I am simply asking the international community to help me implement those resolutions. In my position, I now also have the right to attack the Syrians and to open fire. I do not want a military escalation. I have not declared war on Syria. It is Syria which has been waging war on the Lebanese for the past 12 years. I am implementing the cease-fire. Syria does not respect it. But people pretend not to know that.

LIBERATION: Aside from the present Arab League initiative, are you contemplating an international conference to solve the Lebanese problem?

Michel 'Awn: Yes, if necessary. The United Nations comprises states based on law which are bound to recognize Lebanon's right to sovereignty, integrity, and independence.

LIBERATION: If presidential elections could finally be held in acceptable conditions, would you be a candidate?

Michel 'Awn: There is only one priority—to liberate Lebanon. The Republic must first be saved to enable it to elect a president. For a soldier saving his country and then retiring is the highest honor, if he succeeds. The Lebanese can elect a president every 6 years. But we may have to wait another century for a liberator. I want to be that man.

'Awn Addresses Message to Army, Occupied Areas

NC0604143189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1310 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn addressed the following message to the Army and citizens in the occupied areas a short while ago:

[Begin 'Awn recording] To our people and Army in the occupied areas; to the Lebanese brothers who are partners in the homeland as well as in rights, duties, and destiny; to the other sector of Lebanon suffering from the yoke of occupation, humiliation, and tragedy, from bleeding Lebanon seeking to restore its unity through fires, shells, and destruction.

Brothers and partners: We have suffered equally from the national tragedy brought upon us by the struggle of third parties over our land and by their division of influence, interests, and gains at the expense of our sovereignty and our right to security, liberty, and dignity.

We have been equally humiliated for 14 years. Today we must be equal in responsibility, liberation, dignity, and partnership. We must be partners in making our destiny because it is only through this partnership that we can achieve justice, equality, and equal duty toward full national responsibility.

It is a partnership in paying the tax of liberation and recovery of the homeland. It is a fair partnership that guarantees equality on all levels of decision-making and governing, as well as rights and responsibilities.

We strongly believe that if this partnership is achieved on the basis of common national concepts, independence will be consolidated on a solid reformist base, on which we must reach an understanding once and for all.

That is why we insist that full freedom should be guaranteed for any dialogue among the Lebanese. No Lebanese party should seek the support of a foreign party against another Lebanese party. This dialogue should be conducted in isolation from any pressures or blandishments that influence stands and convictions.

If the occupation forces are trying to impose certain formulas for detente under the threat of the gun or on the pretext of balancing other occupation forces, such formulas cannot last and endure. Consequently, these formulas can not be relied upon as a good basis for a permanent, stable, and everlasting coexistence.

Some occupation forces are trying hard to impose these fragile formulas in order to continue to be able to play with them and intervene in our domestic affairs whenever their own interests require this.

This explains why these foreign forces insist on controlling our attempts to reach national detente by using some of us as tools and facades, and by classifying us into free men, collaborators, patriots, and nonpatriots.

Lebanese brothers and partners: The price we are paying now for the battle of liberation may be much higher tomorrow or the day after tomorrow in terms of sacrifices for the sake of our unity, security, dignity, and stability and for the progress and prosperity of our homeland. Therefore, we are called upon immediately to reject subservience, revolt against the tyrannical foreign designs, smash all the imposed partitionist barriers and obstacles, and meet around a Lebanese-Lebanese table and conduct a free, sincere, objective, and open dialogue.

When this reunion occurs, no one will be able to sow discord and dissension among us or cause us to fight each other. Nor will it be possible to have a multiplicity of loyalties and tendencies. We will then embark on the march of liberating our people and land from the occupiers; all our land—Beirut, the South, the North, the Coast, the mountain area, and the Al-Biqa' valley. We will then be able to participate in the international conference on peace in the Middle East with one viewpoint and one voice. This is in contrast to what is being done by those who stand to lose from the unity of our positions and ranks and who aim to impose their solutions and achieve their interests at the expense of our supreme national interests.

Brothers in arms: You are brothers in the unity of blood, martyrdom, and the dignity of the Lebanese military uniform. You have a double duty; first, as citizens who have duties and rights; and, second, as military men who adhere to loyalty, honor, and sacrifice and who have taken the following oath: I swear by Almighty God that I shall fully discharge my duty of safeguarding the flag of my country and defending Lebanon, my homeland.

We are partners in the same oath, rights, and indivisible dignity. We must stand in one trench because, more than others, we are responsible for rescuing the unity of the land and people, and national honor.

Brother citizens and military men: Together we shall liberate our will, together we shall liberate our land, and together we shall recover Lebanon, all Lebanon, for the sake of the people, all the people. We must recover Lebanon today before it is lost tomorrow and before history brands us with shame and defeat.

Let this message be a pledge, an oath, a charter of liberation, and a future to which we will adhere. Either we will die as martyrs while endeavoring to achieve this charter or we will triumph and live as free men in Lebanon—the homeland of amity, brotherhood, and equality. [end recording]

'Awn Said Willing To Meet Al-Asad in Geneva

NC0704080289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stated that he is prepared to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Geneva to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

In an interview with the French magazine LE FIGARO, 'Awn rejected the idea of visiting Damascus to meet with al-Asad, saying: I want to meet with al-Asad in Geneva, an international city representing human values. He explained that he will not go to Damascus because it is the opposite of Geneva.

Gen 'Awn asserted that military action is not a goal in itself but a means to reach a political agreement. He added: I wish that the Syrians would agree to real negotiations with me regarding the question of withdrawing [their forces].

'Awn said that he hopes to obtain military aid from France. He emphasized that the weapons he receives will only be used to defend Lebanese territory. He replied negatively to a question on whether France had abandoned its role as a defender of Lebanon's Christians by saying no, France defends Lebanon and not just the Christians. France is impartial, and it enjoys the respect of all Lebanese.

Gen 'Awn criticized the United States indirectly by saying: I did not depend on it to wage my war of liberation. I did not ask the help of its 6th Fleet. The only thing I asked is that it would honor its pledges at the UN Security Council.

'Awn denied that he has obtained arms from Iraq. He stressed that there has been no need for Iraqi military aid so far and said: I will unhesitantly seek this aid when the time comes.

'Awn stressed that the cease-fire the Syrians have accepted is a ploy, saying that the cease-fire is not a goal as far as he is concerned. He said that he will wage a traditional defensive war in the free [Christian help] area against any Syrian presence and will carry out resistance operations against the Syrian army in the occupied territory.

Regarding Lebanese political system reforms, 'Awn demanded that the Lebanese be given the opportunity to sit together at a roundtable without the Syrian presence. He said that it is difficult to eliminate political sectarianism. He expressed reservations about directly electing the president of the republic by saying that this is only good for a homogenous people.

In conclusion 'Awn said: I am not interested in politics. However, he added: I said previously that I would accept the presidency if I were elected, but I would not nominate myself or seek the post.

In an interview with the French Notre Dame radio, Gen 'Awn hoped that the world would follow France's example vis-a-vis Lebanon. He said that the situation is clearer now and that France's support is more tangible. He said: political support, in particular, is what will compel the world to follow France's suit. He said that he agreed with French envoy Deniau on the steps they will take in the next few days.

'Awn Details Cease-Fire Violations in Cable

NC0604130989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1235 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn addressed the following cable this afternoon to His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait's foreign minister and Arab committee chairman, and Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general:

In response to your appeal addressed from Damascus to cease fire in Lebanon, the Lebanese Army did not reply to the sources of Syrian shelling beginning 2 hours before the time set for the cease-fire on all fronts. This was to allow the respected Arab committee to continue its contacts to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

But there was no similar response to this commitment. It was violated by the Syrian Army and those collaborating with it. The following violations have been recorded:

At 0500, three mortar shells fell on the Lebanese Army positions in Kafr Shima;

At 1000, 15 82-mm mortar shells fell on the Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb;

At 1320, [time as heard] two 120-mm mortar shells fell on Suq al-Gharb;

At 1110, five artillery shells fell on the Army positions in al-Qammatiyah;

At 1240, four artillery shells fell on Beirut Port;

At 1243, four rockets fell on the Kasrawan Coast;

At 1245, a launcher fired 10 rockets on the residential areas in Al-Zalqah; and

At 1340, three rockets fell on residential areas in Antilyas.

Al-Huss Says No to Crisis Internationalization

NC0604111389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has affirmed that he approves all efforts to stop the cycle of violence. However, he emphasized that he rejects the idea of internationalizing the Lebanese crisis because this would make the required solutions contingent upon the agreement of the big states.

Answering questions from AFP, al-Huss said: We cannot reconcile these states if they disagree nor do we have the power to decide what the priorities in discussion of international issues should be.

Dr al-Huss said internationalization means portraying the external aspect of the Lebanese crisis at the expense of any other aspect. This, he said, means the removal of any national issue, particularly that of national reconciliation, from the solution equation.

Al-Huss 'Again' Welcomes Cease-Fire Appeal

NC0604135889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss told AFP today that the internationalization of the Lebanese issue will torpedo local efforts to achieve national reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Huss again welcomed the appeal made by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the Arab six-member committee, and called on everyone to abide by the cease-fire and have mercy on the innocent citizens everywhere and to refrain from military and media escalation. Prime Minister al-Huss expressed surprise that some have not responded positively to the Arab committee chairman's appeal and have continued to make preconditions at a time when citizens in the eastern and the western areas are impatiently waiting for the end of shelling.

Front Statement Supports Arab Committee Stand

NC0604190089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The Lebanese Front has issued a statement saying that its extraordinary session today was devoted to the discussion of the repeated invitation by the Arab good offices committee chairman Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah to the Lebanese Front to meet with the committee in Kuwait. The statement is as follows:

1. The Lebanese Front reaffirms its previous stand in support of the efforts and endeavors of the committee chairman and members and the strenuous work it has exerted since it was set up. This work is intended to gain understanding of the actual situation in Lebanon in order to help bring about an appropriate solution to the Lebanese crisis by lifting the pressure on a major part of Lebanon and on the Lebanese people.

2. The Lebanese Front asks the Arab good offices committee to halt the Syrian acts of aggression against the eastern areas, the shelling of innocent, peaceful citizens and of the legitimate authorities' institutions, and the destruction of vital facilities and utilities. It demands that the siege of these areas be lifted. The front will not be able to participate in any meeting of the six-member committee as its primary duty is to stand by the citizens and share their suffering, steadfastness, and resistance. We remain ready to meet with the six-member committee when the conditions which hindered the response to the previous invitation, and which still exist, disappear.

'Limited' Cease-Fire Violations Reported 6 Apr

NC0604131089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] After fighting subsided and calm prevailed on all the fronts last night and this morning in response to the appeal by the Arab mediators, the latest security reports received at noon today indicated that tension returned to the Suq al-Gharb front at 1130 today. Shells fell in some areas, but their sources could not be determined. This indicates limited violations of the cease-fire which cannot be regarded, in the view of military observers, as jeopardizing it or as an indication of its collapse, as some private media are saying.

I have learned just before I entered the studio that the sound of explosions is reverberating in various parts of Beirut today. We will keep you informed of any new developments.

Military Source Claims Cease-Fire Violations

NC0704065189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] A military source in Beirut made a statement yesterday evening in which he said: Despite the appeal for a cease-fire, the Al-Yarzah command has continued to escalate the war by shelling the residents in Beirut and the mountain, where the areas of 'Ayn al-Muraysah, Ra's al-Nab', Burj al-Murr, Qasqas, Al-Shabaniyah, Qubbay', 'Alayh, 'Aramun, and 'Aytat came under shellfire. The Army positions in Al-Tayyunah came under tank and machinegun fire in the afternoon. This compelled the Army and the nationalist forces whose positions were shelled to return limited fire in line with their firm position. The continuation of the naval blockade of the ports is considered a flagrant violation of the cease-fire.

Syrian Shelling Hits Kasrawan, Al-Matn Coasts

NC0604112489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1118 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] We have the following report from the newsdesk: The Syrian occupation army is once again shelling the areas of the Kasrawan and Al-Matn coasts from its artillery emplacements in the Normandie [in West Beirut]. The citizens are asked to exercise caution.

VOL: Beirut Port Area Receives Syrian Shelling

NC0604114189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1134 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The Syrian artillery emplacements in West Beirut started to shell the Beirut Port area several minutes ago. This Syrian shelling is still continuing.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Departs After Talks

JN0604125889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the six-man Arab ministerial committee, left Damascus at noon today at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', directors of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, a number of ministry staff, and senior staff at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Damascus.

Shaykh al-Sabah was asked by journalists before his departure about the response of the Lebanese parties to his cease-fire appeal, which he issued in his capacity as the head of the Arab ministerial committee. He said: I would like to thank my brothers of the nationalist forces for their announcement accepting a cease-fire.

When asked about his assessment of the committee's activities, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed satisfaction over the results achieved by brother Sabah al-Ahmad in his efforts for the sake of Lebanon. He said that Syria blesses and supports the call by the head of the Arab ministerial committee to the Lebanese appealing for a cease-fire, lifting the siege, and reactivating the security committee.

He added: The nationalist forces have declared their support of a cease-fire since yesterday night and pledged commitment to the statement issued by the head of the Arab committee.

Asked about the anti-Syria campaign in France and his explanation of this campaign, Faruq al-Shar' said: The French campaign is based on emotions and historical background that have no real foundations. Some French media and some irresponsible statements issued from Paris neither help Lebanon overcome its ordeal nor contribute to placing the warring Lebanese parties on the right track to reach national reconciliation, he said. He pointed out that this hostile campaign was unfair, stemming from a biased background.

The evidence for this, he added, is that the bombardment initiated by General Michel 'Awn against nationalist and Islamic areas, especially West Beirut, and in which scores of people were killed or wounded, did not move the feelings of those people. These feelings are now moving in one way, he added.

Al-Shar' went on to say: Michel 'Awn is responsible for the recent circle of violence in Lebanon because, as everybody knows, he began the escalation and unilaterally imposed a siege on the ports.

Concluding his statement, Al-Shar' said: Anyway, we are now satisfied with the call issued by the brother president of the Arab ministerial committee and we strongly support this call.

Arab League's Klibi Departs Damascus 6 Apr

JN0604160989 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, 6 Apr (SANA)—Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, left Damascus today following a 3-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Afghanistan

AFP: Mujahidin Attacked Near Pakistan Border

BK0704140989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 7 (AFP)—Afghan Government forces attacked resistance positions near the Pakistan border with Scud missiles early Friday in the second such attack in a week, resistance sources said. There were no casualties in the attack near the Towr Kham gate, but 50 shops stocked with tires, automobile parts and other items were gutted, they said.

Kabul's forces had on March 29 attacked Afghan resistance positions with Soviet-supplied long-range surface-to-surface Scud missiles, causing a number of guerrilla casualties.

The missile attack Friday came amid fears that the war in Afghanistan would spill over into Pakistan, which supports the resistance struggle.

Kabul began using Scud missiles after the resistance increased pressure on Afghan troops defending the strategic eastern garrison city of Jalalabad for more than a month.

The resistance sources also said mujahidin guerrillas shot down an Afghan jet and a helicopter near Jalalabad Airport Friday morning with a Stinger missile and rockets.

Attempts to reopen the Jalalabad-Kabul highway have been foiled by the resistance, they said.

Bush Decides To Send Special Envoy To Mujahidin

BK0604113389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] APP, quoting administration officials in Washington, says President Bush has decided to send a special envoy to the Afghan mujahidin as an interim step toward the eventual recognition of interim government of Afghanistan. The American charge d'affaires in Beijing, Mr Peter Thomsen, who has been appointed the special envoy with the rank of an ambassador, will however be based in Washington and make trips to Pakistan until the formal establishment of diplomatic relations with the mujahidin government.

Najibullah Extends Amnesty Decree 1 Month

LD0604192889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Afghanistan's Presidency Office reports that esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, has approved a decree about the pardon of prisoners in honor of the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan and in continuation of the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation. The text reads:

A decree by esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, to extend the period of application of Decree No 315, dated 25 November 1987:

In honor of the commencement of the sacred month of Ramadan, to welcome the 11th anniversary of the April Revolution, in continuation of measures taken in light of the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, as a result of the repeated request by a number of visitors, in connection with the fact that a number of qualified prisoners who did not benefit from the pardon concessions and/or reduction in punishment as a result of administrative reasons, complaints about the weakness in the work of the appointed commission, and as a result of termination of the period of the application of Decree No 315 dated 26 August 1987, I approve the extension of this decree for 3 more months; that is, from 22 March 1989 to 10 July 1989.

A fifth paragraph should be added to Article 1 of Decree 315 dated 25 November 1988 [year as heard] as follows:

5. Those convicted [words indistinct] without taking into account the type of crime and the period of conviction and period passed in prison.

The application of this dceree within a fixed time period should be entrustd to the previous authorized commissions led by the head of the special court of national security with the participation of the representatives of the Supreme Commission of National Reconciliation. At the same time, the head of the commission must inform the relevant sources about the results of the commissions' work. The commission is dutybound to present a report on its work to the the legal affairs section of the Presidency by 21 July.

This decree is enforced from the date of approval and should be published in the media and in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Unilateral Cease-Fire Not Observed in Some Areas

LD0604175389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Prior to the cease-fire the military situation in the past 24 hours has been reported as follows: The enemy fired heavy weapons at Jalalabad city, security posts, and residential areas. A reliable source of the Armed Forces told a BIA military correspondent that the Pakistani Army and groups linked to it fired BM-1 rifle and mortar shells at Jalalabad city and its suburbs from the Samar Kheyl and Shur Rud direction. Pakistani divisions No 11 and 18 took an active part in the long-range artillery barrage on Jalalabad city residential areas. As a result of the enemy's criminal shelling, 7 civilians, including 2 women and 3children, were martyred, and 12 civilians were wounded, also including women and children. Two soldiers were wounded.

In retaliation the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province engaged in strikes against the enemy. They not only neutralized the enemy attacks and pushed them back, but in several areas, among them (Khoshgonband), carried out mopping up operations. As a result of artillery and Air Force retaliatory strikes, shattering blows were dealt to the enemy trenches, rendezvous areas, and supply convoys, during wich 61 enemy troops, including 2 extremist ringleaders namely Jamil and Mawlawi, were killed. Saudi Arabian advisers and mercenaries, Pakistani advisers and regular Army and militia men were among those killed. Another 45 enemy troops were wounded. One recoilless rifle, 20 mortars, 3 rockets, 2 DShK's, 7 strongholds, 4 rocket launchers, 11 light weapons, and 5 supply trucks were destroyed.

During a series of mopping up operations southeast of Qandahar city, which were carried out in retaliation of the enemy shelling, 11 enemy troops were killed and 7 were wounded. Two mortars were destroyed and more than 3,000 DShK rounds were seized.

Another report from Darwaz District, Badakhshan Province says that in the course of retaliatory combat operations, 150 extremists belonging to the Jami'at extremist group, including two deputy ringleaders, were killed. Four security forces members were wounded in the operations.

As a result of combat operations in Sowzmeh Qal'eh, 41 enemy troops along with 3 of their ringleaders were killed, and 53 wounded. Two rocket launchers, 18 assorted weapons, and 18 enemy strongholds were destroyed.

A report from Herat Province states that during clashes between the Hezb-e Eslami and Jami'at in Pashtun Zarghun District, Herat Province, 10 members of the Jami'at group were killed. A report also adds that the enemy shelled the city of Khowst and other surrounding areas with heavy weapons. As a result of the shelling, two soldiers were martyred, and 5 civilians, including children and women, were wounded.

The Armed Forces spokesman stated that after the announcement of a unilateral cease-fire by the Armed Forces Supreme Command of the Republic of Afghanistan, which began on 6 April, the first day of Ramadan, armed extremists who are opposed to peace and tranquillity and Islamic traditions, today, on the first day of Ramadan, have not observed the cease-fire in the following places: Sarowbi District; Jalalabad city; Towr Kotal, Qandahar Province; Khowst Major District; Gereshk city; Maymaneh city; Lowgar Province's Pol-e 'Alam region; and Jabal os Saraj region, Salang highway. So far there have been no reports of firing or combat operations by armed opposition groups in the country's other provinces.

Mujahidin Launch Rocket Attack on Fuel Convoy

BK0604164089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1627 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 5 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin guerrillas fired rockets at a line of fuel tankers a few kilometres (miles) north of here Thursday, hitting at least one, eyewitnesses said.

A pall of black smoke could be seen over the northern edge of the Afghan capital but no casualties were immediately reported.

Witnesses said drivers waiting in line to empty their trucks at a government-run fuel storage dump fled as one tanker exploded.

Further to the north, where the Salang highway from the Soviet border meets Kabul, photographers quoted tanker drivers as saying mujahidin guerrillas had hijacked three full petrol tankers Thursday but were chased by helicopter gunships which strafed them and blew up the vehicles.

Battle for Jalalabad Enters 2d Month

BK0604154889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the fighting for Jalalabad entered its 2d month today and there are reports of fierce battles raging in and around Qandahar city and the airport, with attacks being launched on all security posts in the vicinity of the airport. The mujahidin have captured two posts and the battle continues for the remaining posts.

A delayed report says that the mujahidin ambushed a convoy proceeding to Jalalabad last (?Tuesday), destroying two tanks and several vehicles, capturing a large quantity of arms. The convoy was forced to go back.

It is said that a large number of civilians are preparing to leave Jalalabad, but the Kabul regime troops are forcing them to stay in the city.

Last Tuesday [4 April], the mujahidin launched another rocket attack on security posts in the vicinity of Jalalabad, killing 17 and wounding more than 30 soldiers.

Reports of fighting have also been received from Parvan, Baghlan, and Konarha Provinces.

Mujahidin Launch Missile, Rocket Attack on Kabul

BK0704023589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin, ignoring the Kabul regime's latest statement on a cease-fire, yesterday carried out missile and rockets attacks on Kabul and three other cities. According to a news agency report, a fuel depot and 13 fuel trucks were destroyed in these attacks. The mujahidin also shelled the beseiged city of Jalalabad.

Armed Opposition Group Surrenders in Parvan

LD0604194689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] In honor of the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan and the declaration of cease-fire, an armed opposition group today joined the national reconciliation policy in the environs of Jabal os Saraj District, Parvan Province.

According to a BIA report, this group was warmly welcomed, and 'Abdol Wakil, head of the group, on behalf of the other members, pledged to work decisively for the defense of peace and security.

This group, which was previously active in the Rabbani extremist group, was equipped with various types of weapons such as a DShK, a rocket, a heavy machinegun, and a number of light weapons.

Violation Notices Submitted to UN Mission

LD0704060889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 6, BAKHTAR—The 378th, 379th and the 380th notes of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan on the clear violation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan were submitted to UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Wednesday.

The 378th note drew attention of UNGOMAP to the firing of rockets by the extremists on the residential areas of Kabul city on Tuesday, April 4, 1989 which caused human and material losses as well. The note says that Pakistani militarists are directly responsible for continuation of bloodshed and fratricide in Afghanistan.

The 379th note gave precise information on the military training camps of Atak and Dahan Khan [names as received] which are in full contradiction to the nature of the Geneva accords. Still Afghan extremists are trained in the said camps.

The 380th note drew attention of the UNGOMAP to the forced sending of Afghan refugees especially the youths to the war front in Nangarhar Province which is fully contrary to the provisions of the Geneva accords. The notes asked the UNGOMAP to assess the said violations on the basis of Paragraph seven, Document four of the Geneva accords and inform the concerned sides of the results.

Bangladesh

Hasina Claims Ziaur Rahman Killed Sheikh Mujibur

BK0504153889 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Apr 89 pp 1, 10

[Text] Feni, Apr 2—Sheikh Hasina today made a scathing attack on BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] accusing that its founder late President Ziaur Rahman had been the "ring-leader of the killers" of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH]

"Zia protected the 'killers,' made them the country's envoys abroad and subsequently rehabilitated them politically", she told a big public meeting at Fulgazi High School premises here this afternoon.

This was the first time in recent past that such a direct and ringing onslaught on the BNP came from the Awami League leader, who reiterated her party's resolve to try the killers of Bangabandhu and the four national leaders, slain in the jail in 1975.

Sheikh Hasina, who is now on an extensive tour of different districts, said that her party wanted a parliamentary form of government based on the 1972 Constitution.

Sheikh Hasina, addressing the meeting, said "We want change of power through ballot and not through bullet. We never want the system where the state power is confined within the cantonment", the oft-repeated public statement made by her.

Sheikh Hasina also attacked the ruling Jatiya Party leaders and its ministers accusing them of corruption and oppressing the people. "These corrupt politicians", she blamed, "have been responsible for confining the rights of the people within the cantonment".

Awami League leader also demanded that detailed statements of financial accounts of the ministers of the ruling party should be made public.

She asked the administration to maintain neutrality and said that people should prepare the list of officials who were misusing power and helping the government in perpetrating their oppressive rule.

The meeting was presided over by local Awami League president Kazi Gholam Mohammad and addressed among others by the party leaders Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hussain Amu, Tofail Ahmed and Obaidul Kader.

BNP Protests Hasina Remarks

BK0704090889 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Apr 89 pp 1, 10

[Text] Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Secretary-General Mr Abdus Salam Talukder on Monday protested Awami League chief's remarks about late President Ziaur Rahman, reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH]

Sheikh Hasina at a public meeting in Feni on Sunday said President Ziaur Rahman had been the "Ringleader" of the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In a statement issued on Monday Salam Talukder described the comment of Sheikh Hasina as motivated and baseless.

The sudden remarks of Sheikh Hasina regarding Sheikh Mujib's killing long after the August 1975 changeover had, in fact, surprised the people, he said.

He further said past statements of the Awami League leaders concerning Sheikh Mujib's assassination were contained in the newspapers. In those statements, the Awami League leadership mentioned the forces and individuals involved in Sheikh Mujib's killing, he added.

Mr Islam accused Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina of hatching conspiracy against the country and the nationalist forces.

He also alleged that this particular clique had tried to divide the nation and divert people's attention from anti-government movement on various pretexts at a time when the people were united against the government.

The BNP leader called upon the people to be cautious against the heinous conspiracies of the vested quarters.

Hasina Rejects Ershad's Call for Cooperation
BK0504121789 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Mar 89 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Thursday brushed aside President Ershad's appeal to Opposition parties for extending their cooperation in nation building activities, reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

Sheikh Hasina was addressing a rally to mark the Demand Week of the Bangladesh Diploma Engineers at the Institution of Engineers.

President Ershad on Wednesday called for cooperation of all political parties to unitedly work for the progress and prosperity of the nation.

The Awami League chief called for ousting the present regime through a vigorous united movement and restore democratic system to bring about political stability, development and economic emancipation of the people.

The rally, presided over by the President of the Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Institute, was addressed by 8-party alliance leaders Mohiuddin Ahmed, Chowdhury Harun ur-Rashid, Ajoy Roy, Mirza Sultan Raza, Alhaj Abdus Samad and the General Secretary of the Institute, A.K.M.A. Hamid.

The Awami League chief said her party, which has been struggling for last 40 years for the cause of the people, wants to introduce a sound political system to enable genuine politicians to rule with popular commitment.

Sheikh Hasina bitterly criticised all the governments after 1975 saying they came to power at gun point, floated new political parties with hirelings and political touts and bluffed the people in the name of democracy and development.

She said when the rate of poverty was increased manifold a new bourgeoisie class has been created by the misrule in last 14 years.

The Awami League chief noted with concern that the government is trying to portray a distorted picture of the situation by celebrating "seven years of development" when people in rural areas are groaning in miseries and farmers are deprived of fair price for their produce of labour.

Sheikh Hasina was also critical of unproductive expenditure of the government.

She extended support of her party and the alliance to the genuine demands of the diploma engineers and asked all professional groups to unitedly fight for restoration of a democratic government to solve various problems being faced by all classes of people. [passage omitted]

Minister Leaves for PRC Meeting on Flood Control
BK0304130389 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Planning Minister A.K. Khandoker, left for Beijing today as the head of an 8-member delegation to attend Bangladesh-China ministerial-level meeting relating to flood control. The meeting is to begin on Wednesday [5 April].

The first ministerial-level meeting between Bangladesh and China took place in December last year. It discussed technical cooperation between the two countries in flood control and river harnessing in Bangladesh. The meetings are being held in pursuance of the decision taken at the summit-level talks held between President Ershad and Chinese Premier Li Peng in Beijing in November last year.

Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Arrives 5 Apr
BK0504165389 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The assistant foreign minister of Egypt, (Wasa Hejaji), arrived in Dhaka today on a 4-day visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he described the brotherly relations between Bangladesh and Egypt as deep-rooted. Mr Hejaji said he will exchange views with Bangladesh leaders on bilateral, regional, and international issues of common concern.

Trade Agreement Signed

BK0604131889 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Bangladesh and Egypt have signed minutes of a trade agreement in Dhaka today. Under the agreement, total trade turnover between the two countries will be at least $50 million during the 1989-90 fiscal year. On completion of the seventh session of the joint trade commission, both the countries expressed their firm determination to further strengthen their bilateral trade and economic relations. They also agreed to fully exploit the possibilities of improved bilateral trade. The agreed minutes were signed by the visiting commercial minister of Egypt, Mr (Nabil Muhammad Badruddin Salim), and the joint secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh, on behalf of their respective governments.

India

Gandhi Says Pakistan Close To Making Nuclear Bomb

BK0604162089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that Pakistan is close to making a nuclear bomb and its nuclear program is military in nature. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking at a question-answer session with the students of Vishwa Bharati University in Shantiniketan today. Replying to a question, the prime minister said that both India and Pakistan are trying to improve their relations. Chances have brightened with Ms Benazir Bhutto taking over as prime minister of that country. Mr Gandhi, however, admitted that there are some basic problems in the way of normalization of Indo-Pakistan relations.

The prime minister arrived in Shantiniketan this afternoon to attend the convocation of Vishwa Bharati tomorrow. He was received at the helipad by the West Bengal governor, Mr T.V. Rajeshawar, and the state minister of education, Mr Kanti Biswas. The PCC [Pradesh Congress Committee]-I chief, Mr A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury was also present.

Statement on SRV Withdrawal From Cambodia

BK0604144789 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1435 GMT 6 Apr 88

[6 April statement by External Affairs Ministry spokesman: "Official Spokesman's Statement on Kampuchea"]

[Text] We welcome the important statement of the three Indochina states as a significant contribution to the peace process in Kampuchea. The announcement of the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops by September, 1989, should indeed be linked to an enduring non-return of Pol Pot, cessation of arms supplies to Kampuchean factions and an end to foreign interference as has been proposed by Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos.

This announcement should facilitate an early political resolution of the Kampuchean problem. We have always maintained that such problems can be solved only through political means. We have welcomed the Sihanouk-Hun Sen dialogue, the JIM [Jakarta Informal Meeting] process as well as the initiative taken by the nonaligned countries on the Kampuchean question. We regard these as complementary. We would continue consultations with all concerned so as to promote a negotiated political solution. We are glad that the Sihanouk-Hun Sen meeting on May 2 will be followed by a high level meeting of working groups of the Kampuchean factions by end of May or early June.

We seek to ensure the long standing objective of a sovereign independent and nonaligned Kampuchea which would promote peace, stability, and cooperation in region.

Gandhi Confident About Kabul Regime's Survival

BK0704031889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed confidence that the Kabul government would not fall to the rebels. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking at a question-answer session with the students of Vishwa Bharati University at Shantiniketan yesterday. He said the Western press had particularly portrayed a grim picture about the fate of the Kabul government after the Soviet troops' pullout. He said this is not correct, as the battle in Jalalabad has proved the strength of the government forces there.

Answering a question on the Bakeshwar thermal power project, Mr Rajiv Gandhi assured the Center's full cooperation. He said the West Bengal Government has to fulfill certain norms and formalities for this.

Minister Says Sikh Extremist Met Mujahidin

BK0604163289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, assured the Lok Sabha today that the government has taken necessary steps to see that no foreign agency destabilizes the country.

Replying to a special discussion on the reported nexus between Afghan rebels and terrorists in Punjab, the minister said there is enough evidence to show that the Interservices Intelligence—ISI—of Pakistan is clearly supporting the Afghan mujahidin, the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and the terrorists in Punjab. [passage omitted].

Mr Chidambaram also said that the government has information that there were regular contacts between Sikh extremists based in London and leaders of Afghan mujahidin living there since 1985. There were also contacts between the two in the United States in December 1986. [passage omitted]

On last month's meeting in London called by Dr Jagjit Singh Chauhan and attended by some representatives of Afghan rebels, the minister said that there is some orchestration, particularly by Dr Chauhan, to bring the extremist groups together. The government is closely watching the activities of all such groups.

Appreciating the Pakistan prime minister's attempt to curb Sikh terrorists operating from Pakistan, Mr Chidambaram expressed the hope that Ms Bhutto is able to obtain full control of various agencies.

Letter Threatening Gandhi, Bhutto Disclosed

BK0604131289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, assured the Lok Sabha today that the government has taken necessary steps to ensure that no foreign agency destabilizes the country. Replying to a special discussion on the reported nexus between Afghan rebels and terrorists in Punjab, the minister said there is enough evidence to show that the Interservices Intelligence—ISI—of Pakistan is clearly supporting the Afghan mujahidin, the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, and the terrorists in Punjab. The government is keeping a close watch on the activities of the extremists and the Interservices Intelligence of Pakistan, he added.

The special discussion was raised by Mr B.R. Bhagat and Mr Uttam Rathod, both Congress-I.

Referring to the news report on the nexus between Afghan rebels and the terrorists in Punjab, Mr Chidambaram said the report was clearly anti-Benazir Bhutto, as after becoming the prime minister of Pakistan she has curtailed the activities of ISI. He disclosed that a letter was recovered from two intruders who were killed while trying to cross over at a border post in Khem Karan area last month. The letter, which was addressed two extremist leaders of Punjab, referred to the meeting between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Ms Bhutto in Islamabad, when the Pakistani prime minister promised to close down terrorist training camps in Pakistan. The letter noted that these developments have made transporting weapons to Punjab difficult and that a greater setback may follow. The letter also spoke of having to assassinate both Mr Gandhi and Ms Bhutto.

Mr Chidambaram also said that the government has information that there were regular contacts between Sikh extremists based in London and leaders of Afghan mujahidin living there since 1985. The Sikh extremists are reported to have attempted to purchase Stinger missiles, but there is no evidence that they have been brought over to India.

Referring to the propaganda about Indian military involvement in Afghanistan, Mr Chidambaram said India has no military cooperation with Kabul. He reiterated that India favors immediate cease-fire in Afghanistan so that the Afghan people can determine their own future without external intervention. India has always stood for a sovereign, nonaligned, and independent Afghanistan, Mr Chidambaram added.

Kashmir Security To Combat Muslim Militants

BK0704131989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 7 Apr 89

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, April 7 (AFP)—India is revamping the security network in Jammu and Kashmir, a government official said Friday, as concern mounted here at Moslem separatist violence sweeping the sensitive northern frontier state.

Elite Border Security Forces (BSF) have been deployed for the first time to enforce internal security in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, the federal Home Ministry official said here.

The BSF deployment was only the first step in a major revamp of the state's security network which will be completed shortly, the official said. He added that security experts here were finalising reorganisation plans.

He said 12 BSF battalions, or 12,000 men, had been shifted from the borders and deployed in the interiors of Jammu and Kashmir to halt a rash of Moslem protests that India charges are inspired by Pakistani intelligence agencies.

In addition, troops were called out Wednesday in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, and the southern Kashmir town of Anantnag and given shoot-on-sight orders to quell rioting by pro-Pakistan Moslem militants.

Two people have died and scores been injured in four days of rioting from Monday during a general strike sponsored by secessionist organisations to protest against alleged mass arrests of their supporters.

The Home Ministry official said the federal government had communicated to the state administration its growing concern at the violence.

"The Centre (federal government) is in close touch with the state administration," the official said. "We have promised to give whatever help it wants to stop the violence and are taking all necessary measures to bring the situation under control."

Jammu and Kashmir, which is ruled by Farooq Abdullah's Moslem National Conference allied to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, has witnessed periodic outbreaks of Moslem separatist violence this year.

This week's violence was only the latest in a series of bloody protests beginning February 13, when one person was killed and more than 100 injured by police gunfire during demonstrations against Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses."

Sporadic bomb blasts, arson and clashes between police and Moslem militants are reported almost daily from the state of eight million people, fringed on three sides by Pakistan and China.

"Anybody looking for a method in the violent madness gripping Jammu and Kashmir would be looking for a needle in a haystack," commented the respected DAILY TRIBUNE in an editorial Friday.

"All that can be said with certainty is that violence has become a virus in the state," it said.

The Indian Government has accused Pakistani intelligence agencies of fomenting the unrest in Kashmir, which has been claimed by both countries since the subcontinent's independence and partition in 1947.

A former principality under the rule of a Hindu king, Jammu and Kashmir agreed to join India but the accession was not accepted by Pakistan. Two of the three India-Pakistan wars have been fought over Kashmir.

The Home Ministry official said India had substantial proof that Pakistani agencies had trained and armed members of secessionist organisations in Pakistan-held areas of Kashmir.

He said the issue of Pakistani help to the separatists would be discussed at meetings in may between officials of the two countries' Defence, Home and Foreign Ministries.

While the theory of Pakistani involvement is widely accepted here, critics also accuse state Chief Minister Abdullah of alienating large sections of the population by failing to tackle unemployment and development problems.

He also has drawn fire for going off on periodic overseas jaunts with the ostensible purpose of promoting tourism in Kashmir while trouble rages at home.

But despite doubts about his ability to govern, observers believe that New Delhi has no choice but to continue supporting Dr. Abdullah because his loyalty to India is not in doubt.

Commentary on UK Foreign Minister's Visit

BK0304121589 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Commentary by H. Swaroop: "The Visit of the British Foreign Secretary"]

[Text] The 4-day visit of the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, to India last week could not have been better described than by Sir Geoffrey himself. He called his visit taking place exactly after 2 years as, quote, reborn partnership, unquote. He further explained the rebirth of partnership between India and Britain by saying that he meant a more modern relationship than before, one that looks to the future.

Presently and in future, both India and Britain face a common problem and that is the prickly issue of terrorism. Understandably, the issue figured prominently in Sir Geoffrey's talks with Indian leaders. India is rightly concerned at the role of Sikh extremists in Britain. During a detailed discussion on the anti-India activities on British soil, the British side explained at length the control enforced by the authorities with a pointed reference to the recent legislative measures.

Indian representatives expressed satisfaction with the positive approach but wanted the dialogue to continue with a view to devising ways to make the control more effective. India told Sir Geoffrey in no uncertain terms that it would like to be clear about the efficacy of the legal provisions on funding of terrorist activities by British citizens. The British foreign secretary also spoke strongly about terrorism at a lecture and later at his press conference. He said categorically that Sikh extremism and terrorism that this has spawned is a shared concern of the British and the Indian Governments.

He assured India that Britain condemned unequivocally those who condone or support terrorism whether in Britain or India. He reiterated that the Margaret Thatcher government would continue to use full force of British law, including the newly enacted legislation on terrorism funding, against terrorists or their sympathizers in Britain whatever their origin.

The British foreign secretary's visit to India was preceded by a trip to Pakistan. This has given him an idea of the changing political scenario in the subcontinent. He himself told at his press conference that earlier last week he was in Pakistan and noted with satisfaction the return of full parliamentary democracy in that country. Quote, I have been heartened by the clear willingness authoritatively expressed in Islamabad and in New Delhi alike to develop and improve the cooperation between the two countries, unquote. Sir Geoffrey said he also welcomed the prospects of Pakistan joining the Commonwealth.

The situation in Afghanistan also figured in Sir Geoffrey's talks with the Indian leaders, including the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the external affairs

minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao. The foreign secretary reiterated the British Government's known stand on the issue. In his talks with mujahidin leaders in Islamabad, Sir Geoffrey found a welcome desire to work for a government that will command wide acceptance inside the country. Like India, Britain also wanted to see an Afghanistan at peace without interference from other countries.

On Salman Rushdie's controversial book, Sir Geoffrey expressed gratitude for the active support of many nations for Britain's position. He criticized the passing of death sentence by Ayatollah Khomeyni on Mr Rushdie. He, however, said that the British Government did not support or condone the insulting references to Islam in Rushdie's book.

Sir Geoffrey described his meeting with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as the highlight of his visit and said, I quote, I encouraged him to try and find time in this Nehru centenary year to visit Britain, unquote.

Paper Assails Nepal on Trade, Transit Issue
BK0104112789 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 24 Mar 89 p 13

[Editorial: "India No Punchbag"]

[Text] Nepal has forced it upon India to be just correct and proper with it, although Kathmandu could not have bargained for a relationship based strictly on reciprocity. It needs no great debate to establish the fact that Kathmandu loses, on balance, in a game of reciprocity. India has not pursued a policy of exploiting the weaknesses of its neighbours. The biggest beneficiary of this policy has been Nepal. The 1950 treaty of peace and friendship was ostensibly to benefit equally. History has witnessed the balance-sheet. Following that, the trade and transit treaty has also been allowed to work against India's interest. India thus has been perfectly justified in proposing to re-negotiate this treaty—due to expire on Thursday—by splitting it into two separate agreements on trade and transit.

On trade, Nepal seems to have deliberately sought to harm Indian exporters by allowing certain countries 60 percent duty concessions that made the Indian goods less competitive. This could be argued for, had India withdrawn matching concessions to Nepalese exports. For nearly a decade, Nepal has tended to squeeze India into making concessions, perhaps under the mistaken notion that Indian public opinion would not let New Delhi to withdraw into a narrowly correct position because of traditonal, cultural and religious ties.

It is not the best thing to say, but Nepal needs to appreciate that India is not a punchbag, and cannot be expected to be treated as such. Kathmandu must ask itself whether it is treating its two neighbours for instance, India and China, equally. If it claims it is, Kathmandu must explain how does it allow Chinese nationals within a ten-mile belt of Nepalese territory bordering India when it debars Indians from getting within ten miles of Nepal's borders with China? As a landlocked country, Nepal will always be entitled to certain transit and other facilities under international law. But anything beyond that will depend on goodwill.

As it happens, goodwill is scarcely generated by a policy of pinpricks and double-standard. Fortunately, there is an enormous fund of goodwill at the popular level in both countries. That, if not anything else, should goad Kathmandu not to create problems where they need not exist. India and Nepal can always be good friends, but only as long as one of them is not perceived as a punchbag. Friendship cannot be a one way traffic. Simply because Nepal is a small country does not entitle it to go on portraying itself as an aggrieved party particularly when New Delhi has been showing a great deal of indulgence to it.

Editorial Examines Nepal Trade, Transit Treaty
BK0504132689 Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Mar 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Our Trade With Nepal"]

[Text] It is good that India has invited Nepal for talks on a new Trade and Transit Treaty, despite the lack of response from Kathmandu to Delhi's previous overtures on this issue. Historically, India and Nepal have had close cultural, social, political and economic ties which have unfortunately come under strain in the last few years. The anxieties of a small land-locked nation with two large countries as neighbours are understandable. India continues to appreciate the pulls her neighbour is continually subjected to.

At the same time, however, strong ties cannot be built without mutual responsiveness to each other's sensibilities, sensitivities and vital interests. The bilateral relations need to be reviewed by both countries with this in mind, for there appears to be little in the actual trade and transit situation that can be identified as an insurmountable hurdle to better and broader economic relations between the two neighbouring nations.

This is not to deny that there are some irritants in these areas. India has been and continues to be Nepal's largest trading partner. In 1974-75, Indian goods accounted for as much as 81 percent of total Nepalese imports and India purchased 84 percent of all Nepalese exports. This trade has, however, of late been declining. In 1986-87, the share of Indian goods in Nepal's import basket dwindled to 46 percent. At the same time Nepal exported only 45 percent of its total exports to India. The loss of share in each other's market, despite an increase in the total turnover, is of some concern to both as it has taken place despite a comprehensive trade treaty.

India is particularly disturbed over the reluctance on the part of Nepal to extend certain custom and excise concessions to her exports, specially as these have been accorded to similar products of Chinese origin. This discrimination has to some extent eroded India's earlier advantage. At the same time, Nepal has been pushing for a reduction in the present import restrictions which ban entry into India of goods from Nepal which contain less than 80 percent of Nepalese or Indian raw materials. Nepal wants this limit reduced to 60 percent.

India also has some reservations on the transit agreements. This country has gone out of its way in extending transit facilities to its neighbour, beyond what is expected of it under international law. India has, however, been concerned over the misuse of these facilities for smuggling contraband into the country. What has, however, piqued India most is the employment restrictions whereby work permits are required by Indians seeking employment in Nepal. This India sees as a violation of the 1950 treaty. These do not, however, appear to be intractable problems.

What adds complexity to these issues is that the Indo-Nepal trade problems have to be viewed against the backdrop of other issues which impinge on the India-Nepal relationship. India and Nepal cannot get away from the realities geography, history and cultural ties enjoin on them. In the long run, Nepal would gain nothing by listening to those who want to estrange it from India.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Discusses Montazeri in Sermon

LD0704120689 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 7 Apr 89

["Montazeri Writes To Silence Those Who May Plot in His Name"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri has written to his hometown to thwart any action against the Islamic Republic which might be taken in his name, a senior official said.

Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdol Karim Musavi-Ardabili revealed Montazeri had sent a letter to Najafabad, 34 kms west of Esfahan, for those who wanted to "fish in muddy waters."

"When I saw the recent letter Mr Montazeri had written to Najafabad, I was really delighted," Musavi-Ardabili told the Friday mass prayers gathering in Tehran.

"He written it for those who wanted to muddy the waters in his name and catch fish."

Ayatollah Montazeri stepped down from deputy leadership on March 28 after his resignation was accepted by Imam Khomeyni.

In a letter urging the imam to accept his resignation, Montazeri had stressed no one should oppose the imam or the Council of Experts which decides on leadership matters because they "seek nothing but the interests of Islam and the revolution."

The chief justice did not give further details about the letter. But he stressed the deputy leadership issue was not a power struggle and praised Ayatollah Montazeri for sacrificing his position to preserve the leadership of the Islamic Republic.

He gave several examples from the history of Islam when senior Islamic figures had opted out in favor of others or had been urged to forgo their position for the interest of Islam as a whole.

It had been noted in history, for instance, that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) shortly before his death, had told Imam 'Ali to give up everything if the interests of Islam called for it.

In the issue of deputy leadership what was at stake was Islam, not a person. It had to be seen from the Islamic point of view and not from the human angle of the world outside Iran.

"For us, who know about these standards, sometimes it's necessary that someone, a respectable person, a scholarly figure, a pious figure, someone in a very high position to be in the arena, and sometimes the interests of Islam requires him to be on the side."

"This is not a power struggle or a conspiracy," he stressed.

The ayatollah said he would explain the issue because some, out of concern and love for Islam, were asking questions about the leadership issue and the future of the Islamic Republic.

"There's nothing for anyone to be worried about," he said.

"If there's a need for something to be said here or there about a small or big matter, or to pay attention to something, or to cry out, he (Imam Khomeyni) is here, and there's nothing to worry about."

The imam, with his firmness, care and concern would take action on any necessary issue, just as he had done in the past ten years since the Islamic revolution, he added.

"May God guard the blessed existence of the imam and all the followers of the imam from evil things."

The daily ETTELA'AT Thursday, in its latest editorial on Montazeri's resignation, commended his "brilliant record in the struggle (against the monarchy) and politics, and his great jurisprudential standing."

But the paper added that his big shortcoming was the lack "Khomeynist firmness."

"Ayatollah Montazeri, all the great jurisprudents of today, the great political figures and first ranking officials, honestly confess that none of them are as firm, patient, and really magnificent and revolutionary as Imam Khomeyni."

It added that Montazeri's awareness and endurance in the struggle against the shah as well as his post-revolutionary role in the campaign against the United States, the Soviet Union and their internal agents was an undeniable fact. "But in the position of deputy leadership, much more was expected from him."

KEYHAN Interviews Prime Minister Musavi

PM0504095089 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Mar 89 pp 3, 6, 16

[Interview with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi by KEYHAN correspondents, including answers to questions from members of the public, at the prime minister's office in Tehran on 14 March]

[Excerpts] [KEYHAN] Today there is one question on people's minds, and that is that the government itself is responsible for many of the high prices, that in some cases the government itself—government offices and organizations—has sold goods at inflated prices. The high prices in the past few months have reached incredible levels and people feel that this issue has been neglected and there is no one in the country controlling it or thinking about a solution.

It is very confusing for people that no one does anything, although they do believe that the officials and the government are suffering because of this as well. [passage omitted]

What are the obstacles the government faces in terms of confronting this issue? Are these obstacles executive in nature, are they legal or are they due to mixed responsibilities?

[Musavi] The problem of high prices is being assessed in various ways, and various groups regard the issue differently. One of these ways is to hold the government responsible for the high prices. My answer to that is to consider who says such things and who these people are. Second, if this is true—this general belief that the government is responsible—then how can we combat the allegation?

The general feeling is that all the things that were handed over to the government—including heavy industries—under Article 44 of the Constitution should be given to the rich capitalists so that they can resolve the problem of high prices. There are those who say the government is responsible for inflated prices and point to mismanagement. In reply, we say that a fair person could not make this accusation. Sometimes the issue is brought up only to be pointed in a specific direction, to make us change our economic path away from Article 44 of the Constitution.

I will go further. Let us assume that we give the 1 million tons of steel that we currently produce to a bunch of hardware dealers. Will that solve the problem of high iron and steel prices? Or let us give the $7-8 billion that we have now in hard currency to our local importers. Will that eliminate high prices? Those who bring these issues up do not want to give an economic analysis. Their political goals are to diminish the Constitution and alter the country's financial course in favor of a capitalist economy, to give the reins of power to the rich. Of course, this does not means that the government has not made any mistakes, but intentions must be clarified. [passage omitted]

In the past 10 years, because of post-revolution conditions and the incredible events that have taken place, the government has not had the tools or the means to control inflation. Just imagine where inflation would be now if the government did not control the banks or the credit systems and if it put all our savings into the hands of the private sector or the bazaar. With our present cash flow level, if we see that inflation has been brought under control and that the printing of money is under control, it is because the banks are under the control of the government and because they follow government policy. [passage omitted]

Government power and responsibility vis-a-vis the economy has meant that inflation has been kept down to a certain extent. We say "to a certain extent." They say: "Why do you compare yourself with other countries?" Who can we compare ourselves with? The United States? We are a country at war, in the midst of a revolution. The most we can do is compare ourselves with a country that is not at war and is not the object of all these conspiracies. Of course, the present level of inflation control is not ideal, but in view of the huge amount of services the government provides, the rate of inflation is low. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Many people think that it is the government, the Central Bank, that sells gold coins on the open market. For example, a while ago—before the approval of the resolution—one of our reporters saw a Central Bank official selling gold coins to middlemen at high prices. They themselves admitted that they had official orders. What are your views on this?

[Musavi] One of the duties of the Central Bank is to maintain the value of the national currency. Of course, keeping the price of gold down is one of the Central Bank's ideals. In this connection during the war the Central Bank openly intervened many times, when the price of gold was being tampered with; for example, when the price of a gold coin went up to 190,000 rials. We have examples of people manipulating huge amounts of money in order to raise the price of gold. We have

checks from that period worth 100 or 200 million rials, written by Islamic interest-free loan centers for the purchase of gold coins. This is one of the reasons why we say these centers should not be turned into a banking system or a money-changing outfit under the guise of religion. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] So is it not correct that the government undertakes such action to make up for the budget deficit?

[Musavi] Not at all. The number of gold coins entered into the market to break the artificial fever in the price of gold is so small compared with the budget deficit that its only effect is psychological.

[KEYHAN] In view of your optimism about the state of the economy, we will be hopeful about the paper situation so that we can increase newspaper circulation.

[Musavi] God willing. We are sorry about that; we are ashamed. I do not deny the fact that in the past few months the prices have gone through the roof or that there is a sort of anarchy with regard to prices. That is true. However, I can say that a law to combat high prices will be submitted to the judiciary and the government by the Expediency Discernment Council. With that move, we hope to end the anarchy in prices.

I wish to make one point, and that is that is this: When our supply and demand do not correspond, when there is a great deal of cash flow in our society, and when our production is generally low, then under these circumstances it is natural for government control to increase. On the other hand, when production goes up, government control decreases. This is what the government believes in. Our present situation calls for more intervention in the economy by the government and the judicial authorities, especially in the area of distribution, in order to control rising prices and to combat this chaos. [passage omitted]

You asked another question: Why does the government act resolutely in one area, such as confronting drug pushers and gangs, but not in other areas? The reason why there is a resolute response to narcotics is that there is good coordination in this field between the government and the judicial authorites, which did not exist before. This itself proves what a proper directive can do.

The second issue is that a drug pusher does not have any supporters or spokesmen. Everyone is against them. However, someone who sells things at inflated prices can easily change his image. He can have writers and supporters behind him. He can make a fuss about economic freedom in connection with religious law: He can say that religious laws have been broken, that the government has interfered without any reason, and as a result, he can have his supporters.

At the height of government control it had all the necessary tools, and it used them—for example, to get rationed goods to the private sector. At that time there were those who said there should be free commerce, and if so, then our economy would organize itself. However, now that we have distanced ourselves from the war we can look back and judge and see what would have happened had we released goods on the open market. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] In general, Islam's teachings can be places in two basic catagories: social forgiveness and economic rigorousness. This means that an Islamic regime must—as far as possible, except in areas dealing with national security—be gentle when it comes to social aspects and, conversely, rigorous when it comes to large-scale financial corruption and class differences. Here, with regard to economic problems—there are plenty of examples—there has not been any harshness at all, whereas in the case of social issues such as improper Islamic dress or political crimes, there has been very stern judgment. [passage omitted]

Now the question is this: Since the revolution has there not been a single capitalist who could have been recognized as "corrupt on earth" and executed? We catch a drug smuggler with 30 grams of heroin and we recognize him as corrupt on earth—which he is—and we execute him, but never has any economic "fat cat"—although there are quite a lot of them—been treated that way. This was something that many people asked over the phone. Within this question, there is another question: If the government does not have the necessary tools and power, why does it not discuss these things honestly with the people? The people consider the government part of themselves, and this was quite obvious in the telephone calls that we received from the public yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Musavi] I do not know the exact figure, but my guess is that 80 percent of our production is carried out by those factories and facilities that were confiscated from elements of the past regime, or in any case taken out of their hands. So Islam has shown its tough face when it comes to the people's rights in some areas.

The question of selling goods at inflated prices is a confusing one. When it comes to hoarding, it is not so easy to take things to the level of capital punishment. In reality and in practical terms, the government's understanding of the imam's decree was not one that would take this type of crime all the way to capital punishment. Shedding people's blood is not an easy thing to do.

Of course the judicial authorities have certain laws and powers and can draw up an Islamic judgment on an issue and pass sentences. Perhaps it would be easy to execute someone, but the government cannot take someone and execute him, saying he is a member of a band of hoarders. The government is bound by those same

religious rules and laws, and in many cases it has not been able to deal with many issues freely. Furthermore, this has never been government policy, and is not policy now. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Why is it that decisionmaking bodies get results when it comes to punishing criminals in the area of drugs or counterrevolutionary political moves, but not when it comes to economic crimes? It seems there is doubt about the harm caused by an economic terrorist, who can be more damaging than a drug pusher. In general, is there room for executions when it comes to economic crimes? If it is possible to have capital punishment for such things, why has there not been a case so far?

We accept that the government and the regime have done much to resolve issues, and are busy doing so now, but what counts in people's judgement is what is on the surface. Unfortunately people are not told many things either. This is one example: where they see nothing is being done with economic criminals.

[Musavi] I cannot issue an Islamic sentence. I can only voice my opinion on economic policies.

I believe in strong government control at times of shortages and hardship. I believe that if the regime has enough tools in its hands in this regard, and if it is able to use them in the best possible way, there will be no need for executions. I think that unless we are forced to, we should not use harsh measures. Perhaps we will lose a little by following these policies, but in the long run it is in the interest of our country. This is my general view.

What the people are complaining about is the natural shortages that they are facing. These must be explained to them, and if this is done, I believe people will tolerate the situation, as they did during the war.

The situation in the country at present is that we are really not wealthy. Of course, we have potential wealth, but not actual wealth in our hands. We have fought for 10 years and our resources have been strained. We are now under sanctions and under great international pressure. When these things are explained to the people, their tolerance increases.

On the other hand, we must have a long-term policy to confront the issues, and if the situation gets that bad, there must be executions. We are not saying that there should not be any executions. Another aspect that you must remember is that in our society, unfortunately the voice of a hoarder is louder than that of a drug smuggler. This means that the merchant who is selling goods at high prices can easily cover himself behind a guise of legitimacy. From behind there will come slogans that it is for the good of the revolution, within which there is freedom to carry out economic activity. This is how they can defend themselves. There are those who are suggesting theories to take the country's economy toward a capitalist system and a 100-percent open system. All these things make it more difficult to combat a hoarder than a drug pusher.

[KEYHAN] What we mean is that during the past 8 or 9 years there have been crises that have been caused by economic terrorists.

[Musavi] I agree with you, and I am saying that there should be a confrontation with these people. Now of course, it is up to the judicial authorities to catch these economic criminals and the press must cover these incidents. [passage omitted]

With regard to keeping people informed, we must say that there is some information which is not revealed, not because our regime cannot handle it, but because it will be used by the enemy. For example, let us imagine that in wartime conditions, we tell the people that our hard currency situation is not good. They are satisfied that the shortages are due to a shortage of currency. But more important than that positive result—the people's satisfaction—the enemy abuses the situation. I am sure if we tell the people that this is the reason why they are not told certain things, they will be happy.

Apart from all this, during the Majlis sessions and in the preagenda speeches on the budget, the situation was such that all the secrets, problems, and shortages were communicated to the people. During the past 8 years when the government presented eight budgets, it has actually been challenged eight times. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Perhaps one of the biggest blows that we have received in the past few years has been in the area of propaganda. In fact, we use one of the world's most obsolete forms of propaganda in today's Iran, part of which is direct propaganda, which probably has the least effect on the listener and in many cases becomes adverse propaganda. Instead of achieving a common feeling of cooperation with the public, we create confrontations. [passage omitted]

Let us now go back to our own methods of propaganda, which means putting our trust in people, discussing many of the issues with them, or on the other hand, not giving them the news on time or giving it to them in a false way. You must remember the news of the execution of seven so-called clerics and how this was reported in the country. It was reported 15 days after its announcement by Radio Israel and the BBC, which subjected it to all sorts of analyses, turning the people's minds whichever way they wanted. Then the minister of intelligence talked about this in a very closed sort of way in a news conference in Iranshahr, followed by a short statement from the Ministry of Intelligence, which was the official announcement on the event.

In the meantime, the news had started to filter through society because the channels are not limited and they cannot be closed. Thus the people are being told indirectly to trust the BBC and Radio Israel. This is because the news that we are getting today was broadcast by them 15 days ago. In fact giving the news 15 days late proves the BBC and Radio Israel right. [passage omitted]

[Musavi] Fortunately, because we did not formulate a propaganda policy quickly after the revolution, it caused a problem among the newspapers. I believe that now that we have distanced ourselves from the war, not having such a policy is more to our benefit. The people have gradually become familiar with all the details of the war, and as they became familiar with all the problems they fought against them.

I believe that the brother journalists and other media people should not be looking for a government-issued all-encompassing propaganda policy. They should even oppose it. We must trust our newspapers to take the initiative into their own hands and formulate the framework of such a propaganda policy.

On one occasion a foreign official was visiting Iran. He came here and held some talks, and at the same time the press said what they wanted to say in a strong manner. Today this propaganda policy has been established in our country. There is no reason at all why the newspapers should publish the things that I say officially. There are many situations where the government cannot say something directly, but a newspaper can say what it wants, provided it does not harm the country or the regime. Now our propaganda policy is gradually falling into shape.

With all the problems that it has faced during the past 10 years, the government has really not had time to spend a lot of resources on propaganda, despite the fact that propaganda is very important. Another point is that no matter how strong the propaganda may be, when there are shortages in the country, the sharp edge of the people's criticisms will be directed toward the government. For 10 years after the last war, the Japanese Government was the most hated thing in that country. But it is not like that in our country. People are kind, they have love in their hearts, and they view the regime within the context of Islamic values. [passage omitted]

[KEYHAN] Another subject being discussed along with the issue of high prices is the problem of corruption in offices, especially in government offices, particularly in the past year, when the results of our new economic legislation were announced. It turned out that much of the work done involved huge financial swindles in some government offices. In the final analysis this makes people mistrust the government and ultimately the regime itself.

On the other hand the situation has gone so far that even the smallest thing is impossible without giving bribes or having inside connections. [passage omitted]

[Musavi] The important thing to remember is that while there is corruption in our government system and offices, it has not become deep-rooted. This makes us hopeful that we will be able to resolve the issue. [passage omitted]

I feel that part of the problem involves factions—making one name big and another small, using this information to deal blows against other people. We saw this as the government received its vote of confidence in the Majlis. This type of information was given out to undermine some of the ministers.

One thing I can say about the future is that for now, the Expediency Discernment Council has two laws. One deals with corruption in the form of bribes—which, if discovered, carries punishment right up to execution. This has become law and is very tough. We believe that if the law is carried out, corruption will greatly decrease because it does not have deep roots.

The second situation deals with government agencies selling goods at inflated prices. There is another law passed by the same council on this issue, which we are hoping will be submitted to the government in the next few weeks. Under this law, there are heavy punishments for government organizations that disobey.

Another issue concerns raisaing the standard of living for civil servants. When we say there is corruption in government offices, this does not tarnish the innocent face of the average civil servant. Our civil servants are really oppressed and innocent. The rate of pay for these people is nothing compared with the rate of inflation and increasing prices. Yet, it is the same civil servant who sent 200,000 men to the war fronts each year despite all their problems. If the standard of living for the civil servant improves, with the spirit of the Hezbollah that we see in offices, the issue of petty bribes will soon be behind us.

One last point in this regard is that there must be a change in the office system, which means that work must be simplified. This will take ime. We really did not have the power to do this during the war. Now that we have the time, one matter that is always discussed in the policy-making council, in the government, and in the Majlis is that there should be changes in the bureaucracy to get eliminate similar and parallel organizations and to simplify things. [passage omitted]

One thing that I wish to add, along with the economic issues, which is very small compared with our other issues, is that our beloved people should know that the strongest country that has stood up to the world aggressors is they themselves and their leader. This is something that has been recognized by our people and the

whole world. Today, if anything happens to world aggression, even in places that have nothing to do with us, have no contact with us, it is to our people's credit, and this is our greatest honor. What we are saying is that we must maintain this situation at all costs.

These shortcomings that we have now—which I am not ignoring because they are very major—we are able to resolve. If we do not have this spirit and if we do not take an offensive posture toward aggressors and all that is ugly in the world, in the future our country will be one where there will be a group of heretics who are powerful, a majority who are silent, poor, and oppressed, and another group who will garner profits and be linked to foreign powers. However, if we maintain this spirit, the issues of finance, distribution, essential goods, and so forth will all be resolved, because we rely on economic truths in this country. [passage omitted]

Our forecast for next year [year beginning 21 March 1989] is that if nothing out of the ordinary happens, the situation with regard to rationed goods will improve. I mentioned that our hard currency reserves are improving, which is very good news. Incomes have increased, which is why we have accordingly raised prices a little.

One of the important issues which has not really developed yet is that during the war the government managed a system whereby it would be able to run the country even if the levels of our hard currency reserves fluctuated. This involves a very complex mechanism. It worked like a water faucet: When there was plenty of currency we could turn the faucet on, and vice versa. In 1981 when we had our first currency crisis, when foreign orders were stopped for about 3 months, we did not have such a mechanism.

Now that the hard currency reserves are better, our spending on foodstuffs, factory requirements, and investments has increased. This is why I am optimistic that next year we will have a better situation. It is to be expected that after a few months people will gradually feel that it is getting better. However, as the imam has said and as our economic realities show, our investments must bear fruit. For example, getting our power stations to work at full capacity will require a lot of time.

Suppose we get some of them running by the end of the current year, the rest will have to start toward the end of next year, the beginning of 1990. We still have units that have been damaged and efforts must be made to get them in working order again. In this way, the result of the last unit getting back on line will be felt sometime in 1991, which also means that the people will be able to use more electric power.

Hizballah Official Meets With Khomeyni

NC3003080489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has met with the great imam of the nation, Khomeyni, in Tehran. At their meeting he stressed Hizballah's commitment to confront global arrogance and the usurping Zionist entity.

Nasrallah discussed with Imam Khomeyni the various developments and the situation of the Muslims in Lebanon, particularly the latest developments concerning the implementation of the Damascus agreement between Hizballah and the Amal Movement.

Nasrallah cited the imam as saying that Iran's Muslim people have suffered much pain but have stood fast and made sacrifices until God gave them victory. Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine have risen today against the United States, Israel, and the oppressors. This is difficult and arduous, he added, and you must be patient and make sacrifices for the sake of God so that He can give you victory.

Lavasani Talks With Perez de Cuellar, Eliasson

LD0704092389 Tehran IRNA in English 0647 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—The need for Iraq to act on commitments based on Resolution 598, mainly to pull out its forces from Iran, was stressed in meetings with senior U.N. officials Thursday.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani reaffirmed in talks with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the U.N's Headquarters in New York that the Iraqi troop withdrawal was a priority issue. He also said Iraq's repeated violations of the ceasefire should stop.

The U.N. chief proposed another meeting be held with the Iranian delegation to study the issues further.

Lavasani also outlined Iran's position on ways to revive the peace process, in a separate meeting with U.N. special representative Jan Eliasson and his assistants.

Musavi Receives Pakistani Envoy, Bhutto Message

LD0604134389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Pakistan's ambassador in Tehran today met with Prime Minister Musavi. In the meeting the ambassador submitted a message from Benazir Bhutto. He also stressed the positive trend in the expansion of the two countries' bilateral relations and presented a report on regional developments and bilateral cooperation.

The Central News Unit reports that Mr Musavi in turn described as positive the recent exchange of opinion between the two countries. He then noted the recent appointment to Pakistan's new cabinet of an advising minister, in charge of affairs pertaining to the fight against narcotics. He also expressed the hope that Iran

and Pakistan may be able to implement useful initiatives to fight against narcotics smugglers and international conspirators, particularly through border cooperation.

The prime minister also made some remarks in connection with Afghanistan, saying: We consider support for the Afghan mujahidin as a religious obligation. We believe that the unity of the Afghan mujahidin forces is essential for the future of Afghanistan.

SAIRI Head on Iraqi Ayatollah's Martyrdom

LD0604102189 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Iraqi refugees here staged a demonstration Thursday morning on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of martyrdom of Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr.

The demonstrators marched to the headquarters of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), where the SAIRI head Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim delivered a speech.

The SAIRI chief renewed allegiance to the late Ayatollah Sadr and other martyrs of the Islamic revolution of Iraq. He said the late ayatollah who along with his sister was martyred by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, had outlined the strategy of the Islamic revolution of Iraq before being martyred.

He further stressed that Iraqi Muslims should continue their opposition until downfall of the ruling regime in Baghdad and establishment of an Islamic system.

Meanwhile on the same occasion, a commemorative ceremony was held here Wednesday attended by a number of Iranian officials.

Majlis Speaker Visits Missile Research Center

LD0604180689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief, visited the Engineering Research Center of the Construction Jihad this afternoon. During his visit the acting commander in chief inspected different areas of the center, including those dealing with armored vehicles and equipment; laboratories; expert groups [as heard] mechanics, and the metallurgy, electronics, and (?polymedtric) industries. He was also briefed on medium-range missile production projects, as well as on models of projects for the Construction Jihad's research centers in Esfahan, East Azarbayjan, Fars, and Khorasan Provinces.

At the end of his visit, the acting commander in chief gave an interview to our correspondent, as follows:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, you have just visited the Engineering Research Center of the Construction Jihad. Please tell us how you assessed the efforts of these dear ones toward attaining independence, self-sufficiency, and strengthening defense capability?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. There is great work being done here. Part of it is related to defense affairs. As far as I have seen, their work was very good. I was most interested in the progress they have achieved in missile production. Some have already been tested, which I saw. I also saw those which have not yet been tested. I believe it is a powerful center for meeting the various needs of the country; they are doing research toward that end. They manufacture models. It inspires hope, but it is not possible to talk more on these affairs. [end recording]

Khamene'i Addresses Tribesmen, Ends Ilam Visit

LD0604101789 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Ilam, April 6, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today called on tribesmen and border dwellers to preserve their readiness for countering enemy threats until the achievement of a reliable peace and withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory.

Addressing a large group of tribesmen in Mourt [placename as received] region here, the president stressed "we do not want the war to resume but we do not trust the enemy."

A U.N.-mediated ceasefire went into effect betweend Iran and Iraq in August, one month after Iran unconditionally accepted Security Council Resolution 598 which envisages an end to eight years of hostilities between the two sides.

But despite three rounds of peace talks under the supervision of the U.N. secretary general in Geneva and New York, no substantial progress has been achieved due to Iraqi obstructions.

Baghdad has openly turned down an appeal by the U.N. to withdraw its troops to the internationally-recognized borders to speed up the implementation of the resolution.

"The Iranian nation will defend its system and home country with all its might in case of any aggression," Khamene'i vowed.

The president wound up his three-day visit to the border provinces of Ilam and Bakhtaran this morning. During the tour, he stressed that priority must be given to tribes and their affairs during post-war reconstruction.

In an interview before leaving here, he said local officials in Bakhtaran and Ilam would be invited to take part in cabinet sessions in order to accelerate decision-makings on provincial issues.

President Khamene'i also met with prayers leaders and theologians and discussed issues and problems of the Ilam Province Wednesday night.

Assesses Tour of Provinces

LD0604125289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, at the end of his 3-day tour of Bakhtaran and Ilam Provinces, was interviewed by news correspondents, describing the results of his trip. We begin our news reports with a report from our correspondent, Ahmadzadeh.

[Begin recording] [Ahmadzadeh] Mr Khamene'i, your trip to Bakhtaran and Ilam ends today. In your meetings with the people and officials, you heard about many problems and issues that resulted from the imposed war. Please give us your opinion on what you think the government should do to resolve the problems of Ilam Province, a deprived area.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The trip to Ilam and Bakhtaran Provinces was very good. First, we were able to come into close contact with the beloved and very good people there. In some towns, such as Gilan-e Gharb which has been almost totally destroyed, that is, nearly 100 percent of the town has been destroyed, people remained there during the war years; they did not leave. It was appropriate that officials should meet them at the place of their resistance. This had not been done before. I went to meet them. Furthermore, some of the people of Ilam and the tribesmen of that province expected that someone should visit and praise their effors. Of course, some of our brothers have already visited Ilam, and some officials have met the people there. [passage omitted]

Now as to the problems of those people: As you pointed out, both provinces face a lot of problems. In particular, one must remember that Ilam has been a deprived area for a long time, and its situation has worsened due to the war.

I came to the conclusion that the government's reconstruction policies must view these two provinces as special cases. I and all the members of the cabinet hope that we may be able to direct this type of special attention to these provinces. We would like to ask the cabinet do whatever it can to give special attention to these two provinces.

Within the two provinces themselves, officials who are familiar with the shortcomings and inadequacies there will able to advise us best. We have asked them to come to Tehran, God willing, to participate in the cabinet session. With the benefits of such an exchange of opinions, God willing, we may be able to discern the urgency of some of the tasks and determine the priorities.

[Ahmadzadeh] Thank you. [end recording]

Further on Hanging of 66 Narcotics Dealers

LD0604105689 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—Sixty-six drug dealers were hanged today in Tehran and 18 other cities, according to an announcement issued by the anti-narcotics campaign headquarters. It said 8,588 kgs of opium, 797 kgs of heroin and 7,457 kgs of morphine had been seized from the arrested smugglers.

Several of those executed had previous records of armed resistance, smuggling of arms, mischief, creating of panic, and involvement in murder.

Seventeen of them were executed in Tehran, six in Shirvan, five in Torbat-e Jam, four in Birjand, one in Torbat-e Haydariyeh, one in Qa'en, one in Sabzevar and one in Asfarayen [placename as received] in northeastern province of Khorasan, six in Gonbad, two in Amol, one in Gorgan, and one in Sari (in the Caspian Province of Mazandaran), three in Zahedan (Baluchestan va Sistan), two in Shiraz (Fars), two in Qazvin (Zanjan), one in Rasht (Gilan), seven in Haymedan, three in Bakhtaran and two in Kerman.

The headquarters called on those involved in narcotics smuggling to give up or face death.

Meanwhile, four armed burglars were hanged in Larestan, in Fars Province today.

Leaders Urged To Determine Economic Strategy

LD0604093389 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA—"The leadership system" has been suggested by an Iranian daily as the only way to settle the problem of choosing a new economic strategy.

"Granted the present problems and differences that might exist as to what course of action and policy is the best for the nation, only leadership system can outline what serves the best interests of the nation," the TEHRAN TIMES said today.

The English-language newspaper in an editorial on Iran's new economic strategy predicted that "the economic and political conditions of the country in the next few months will be very sensitive."

The determination of an organised economic strategy for rehabilitation and development of the country, the ratification of the law of Islamic punishment for profiteers which will be implemented as of April 9, the presidential election, the adoption of an economic strategy for the implementation of the five year development plan were cited by the paper as major factors which give significance and sensitivity to this phase in Iran's history.

According to the paper, many problems resulting from lack of major decision-making centers can be solved by "creation of healthy economic currents, based on unified viewpoints of the leaders."

The TEHRAN TIMES believed that "many resources and a major portion of the nation's forces are spent in adoption of this or that economic policy."

"As such it is only appropriate that the top-ranking leaders come out with the necessary guidelines to prevent the wastage of forces and resources."

The paper further suggested that the major decision-making centers of the country by taking guidelines from the society's leaders "can proceed with choosing executives powerful enough to implement such policies."

Pakistan

Bhutto, Altaf Hussain Discuss Sind Situation

BK0604142989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Altaf Hussain, the leader of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at latter's residence in Karachi today. They exchanged views on the law and order situation in Sind, especially in Karachi. Altaf Hussain was leading a five-member delegation comprised of Azim Ahmad Tariq, chairman of MQM; Dr Imran Farooq, the general secretary; and Tariq Javed, the provincial minister. The prime minister was assisted at the talks by Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah; Aftab Shah Gilani, senior provincial minister; and Iqbal Hyder, the chief minister's adviser. Justice Qadeeruddin, the former Sind Governor, was also present on the occasion.

It was decided at the meeting that the elected representatives and workers of the MQM and the Pakistan People's Party should maintain close mutual contact to find ways to establish lasting peace in the province. They also agreed to work unitedly to promote understanding and brotherhood among all sections of the population for maintaining peace and order.

8 Killed, 40 Injured in Hyderabad Clashes 6 Apr

BK0604152789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 89

[Text] Eight persons were killed and forty injured in clashes between two groups of people in Hyderabad today. The Army has been deployed to end the disturbances. Curfew has been imposed in Hyderabad and Latifabad from 1800 [1300 GMT] until further orders.

According to reports, the clashes took place [words indistinct] market during which the two groups fired on each other, disrupting normal business in the city.

Putting aside all his activities, the Sind chief minister has arrived in Hyderabad to review the situation.

Bhutto on Violence; Troops Sent

BK0704035689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said her government is committed to protecting the life and property of the people, and she appealed to them to assist the government's efforts in this objective. Speaking at a function in Karachi last night, the prime minister warned that antisocial elements creating disturbances in some parts of the country will be dealt with sternly. The people's government will not allow these elements to spread disturbances and create a sense of insecurity among the citizens.

The prime minister said the antisocial elements found opportunities to disturb law and order and play with the lives of the people during the period of the non-representative government of more than a decade. She pointed out that when the activities of antisocial elements are eliminated from one part of Karachi, they start disturbances in another part of the city. Now that their activities are curbed in Karachi, they are turning to Hyderabad. The prime minister warned that the government would not spare these elements, wherever they go.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said that during the dictatorial regime, no attention was given to the elimination of social evils, such as hatred among various sections of the population, the drug problem, and the spread of illegal arms. Now that a democratic government is running the country's affairs, every effort would be made to forge complete unity among the people and put an end to hatred.

The prime minister said social evils that confront the nation today are the results of depoliticization, and that the non-party elections in the past created differences between various groups. Ms Benazir Bhutto urged the people to set up peace committees in their areas and start a vigilance system on a voluntary basis. She said law and order is a provincial matter, but the Federal Government will fully contribute toward the citizens' efforts in restoring law and order.

Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah condemned the killings of innocent people and affirmed that subversives will be dealt with sternly according to the law. The chief minister said in Hyderabad yesterday that it appears some elements have not accepted the democratic era and are trying to undermine the peaceful atmosphere. He appealed to citizens to foil the sinister designs of the miscreants. The chief minister also visited hospitals to inquire about the injured [in 6 April Hyderabad violence].

The situation in Hyderabad remained peaceful last night following yesterday's incidents. A curfew is in force in Hyderabad and Latifabad, and troops are patrolling the area.

Kabul's Charges on Border Troop Movement Rejected

BK0704023989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Apr 89

[Text] Pakistan has again rejected the Kabul regime's allegations about the stationing of Pakistani troops on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and the so-called participation by Pakistani troops in the fighting inside Afghanistan. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday evening that the commanding officer of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Major General Helminen, recently visited various

border posts in Baluchistan and the Northwest Frontier Province and Towr Kham and found no proof to substantiate the Kabul regime's allegations.

Sri Lanka

1-Week Unilateral Cease-Fire To Begin 12 Apr

BK0604114189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The government will declare a 1-week unilateral cease-fire throughout the country during the forthcoming Sinhala and Tamil new year period, which commences on April the 12th. Cabinet spokesman, minister of foreign affairs, and minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, said this in weekly news briefing in Colombo last night that the cease-fire would apply in the south as well as in the north and the east. Those engaged in violence at present were expected to reciprocate.

Minister of education, cultural affairs, and information, W.J. Lokubandara, was associated with Mr Wijeratane at the Cabinet news briefing.

Mr Wijeratne said that following President Premadasa's offer of the amnesty at Mahiyankarai last Saturday, 40 subversives had surrendered to the authorities at Anuradhapura. Reception centers are being set up to receive those who are willing to give up terrorism and enter the mainstream of democracy. This offer of an amnesty was made not only to leaders but to the rank and file as well, both collectively and individually. The United National Party is willing to give two parliamentary seats from its national list to those who accept the offer of amnesty.

He said that the major political parties have signed a joint statement calling on those engaged in violence to lay down arms, accept the amnesty offer, and enter the mainstream of democratic politics and call for a cease-fire. But no parties in the opposition had not signed this statement. [sentence as received] Mr Wijeratne said that they were the very people, who were shouting from the rooftops for an end to violence in the country. But now they were playing hide and seek for reasons best known to themselves. The minister said that what political parties must realize is that they must get together at a time of national crisis and lead the people to normality.

Referring to the north and the east, Mr Wijeratne said that General Cyril Ranatunge will cooperate with Gen Kalkat regarding the declaration of cease-fire in the north and the east. Mr Wijeratne said that during the cease-fire, the security forces would be in full readiness to put down any violence.

AFP: 24 Indian Soldiers Killed by Tamils

BK0604161889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1546 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, April 6 (AFP)—At least 24 Indian soldiers were killed Thursday by Tamil guerrillas in two separate attacks in northern Sri Lanka, security sources here said. Fighters of the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), blew up a truck load of soldiers killing 18 of them and wounding two in Olumadu village in Wanni region, the sources said.

Within hours, LTTE activists ambushed another Indian patrol killing six soldiers and captured weapons from them, the sources said adding that it was the biggest loss in a single day of Indian troops in recent months. Indian High Commission officials here were not immediately available for comment. [passage omitted]

LANKAPUVATH: 27 'Subversive Suspects' Arrested

BK0604132089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1148 GMT 6 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, 6 April (LANKAPUVATH)—Twenty seven subversive suspects engaged in antisocial and antigovernment activities were arrested by the security forces and the police, who were placed in an island-wide alert, following the work stoppage call by the subversives to commemorate yesterday, the 18th anniversary of their abortive uprising of 1971.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that one Army officer was killed and several police officers and a soldier wounded in sporadic incidents of violence, as the security forces and the police were targetted for attacks by subversives in different parts of the island.

Civilians too fell victims to the subversives and a 20-year old pregnant woman being rushed to hospital was killed and two others critically wounded, when their ambulance was fired upon at Kurunegala last night.

Several passengers were also wounded, when subversives attacked the public and private transport services.

Public and private transport services, which were affected in varying degrees in some areas led to the non-functioning of both private and government establishments. [passage omitted]

13 EROS Members Released From Maximum Security

BK0604122889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1142 GMT 6 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 6 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—Thirteen members of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), who were serving jail terms, were released from Colombo's maximum security Magazine section of the Welikade Jail in Colombo. Commissioner of Prisons H.G. Dharmadasa told LANKAPUVATH that the government had issued release orders on 19 such prisoners, but certain clearances were being awaited before they too were released. He said these prisoners were serving jail terms after being convicted in the high courts.

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